

Correspondent of The Times sees tanks dug in on a ridge near the front line
Under fire in Lebanon battle with Israel-backed forces

From Robert Fisk

Ibî el Saqi, southern Lebanon Sept 21

Lying flat on the sandbags with two armed Palestinians crouching on each side, it was possible to see the American-made tanks with the naked eye. They were straddling the stone ridge to the west and were clearly outlined against the horizon.

With binoculars, you could steady your arm on the sandbags and make out the unmistakable shape of two M68 tanks, the southernmost parked in a newly-dug rectangular machine guns mounted on their turrets. They were positioned about two miles inside Lebanon. "Israelis," the Palestinian on my right whispered, as if the tank crews were able to hear him.

It was 10 o'clock, scarcely an hour since the Lebanese Government had formally accused

Israel of moving tanks and armour into Lebanon. Across the foothills towards Khiam, heavy artillery thundered and rumbled along the valleys where the Palestinians are still holding out, although we could see no sign of the shellbursts from where we were lying.

Then a man appeared standing on the rear of the tank on the left and, through binoculars, you could see him staring northwards with his hands on his hips. You could not help but wonder what he was thinking. Then he jumped down, casually pulled a radio headset off his head and disappeared behind the ridge.

The Palestinian commander, a thin young man with a badly groomed black moustache, was anxious that we should see the tanks, but did not seem unduly concerned.

"We saw them come in two days ago," he said. "They put

10 tanks into the Khiam area and sent another 12 up towards Marjayoun."

Marjayoun is the Christian Lebanese stronghold in southern Lebanon, and it lay on a small hill to our right, so close that you could see the churches and shops along the main street.

About 20 yards from the sandbags, the Palestinian—code named Abu Mayad—told us to peer over a low wall. Using the binoculars again, it was possible to see a small concrete structure about a quarter of a mile away. Next to it was a mounted gun and a man wearing a beret who was silhouetted against the sun. He looked rather harmless.

"An Israeli, with a heavy machine gun". Abu Mayad announced briefly, shielding his eyes against the light. It was a fact impossible to deny. Whether the disgruntled soldier was an Israeli gunman or a

member of the Christian Lebanese army.

Our interest had not gone unnoticed. Mr. Alex Efyvioulas, the Associated Press news agency, and I had paused no longer than 10 seconds at the low wall, but no sooner had we left it than the deserted streets came alive with gunfire.

The soldier in his little concrete bunker had suddenly become very dangerous indeed, and heavy machine gun bullets began to crack and hiss around the sandbags we had just left.

Several Palestinians to the east of the village fired back, but Abu Mayad, his rifle still pointed to his back, threw himself on to the road. I followed and just caught sight of Mr Efyvioulas running for the cover of the wall.

For almost a minute, the bullets raked across the houses and the road, and the road biting into the stonework and sending chips of plaster and

concrete into the air. One round smashed pieces of wood off a telegraph pole six yards away at the level of our heads, and they were passed over our heads and the pole with a loud whizzing sound that made you want to panic.

Almost an hour before, we had sat on a quiet hillside road behind Ibl el Saqi while three Palestinians put up a 14ft aerial for the two-way radio and attempted to tune into the Israeli Army's radio network.

Then we had listened, a world away, to the BBC broadcasting from London. A woman newsreader, with a careful, precise English voice, had said: "Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was ready to discuss a ceasefire in southern Lebanon. One of the Palestinian radio operators grinned when he heard the words: "So the Israeli army they are in Lebanon", he said.

Continued on page 6, col 5

By David Wood
Political Editor

For what virtually all Westminster politicians believe will mark out to be the last round of party conferences before the next general election the leaders of the Conservative Party mass party organization appeared yesterday to see no difficulties in dressing the shop windows with the trappings and debates to their liking.

Introducing, in London, the agenda for the annual conference, which this year will run in Blackpool from October 11 to 14, Sir Charles Johnston, chairman of the national union of Conservative Party members, who is to be the conference chairman, found to their fellow surprise that no left-wing journalists were on hand this year to suggest that the Conservative conference is rigged against the underdog because of widespread rumours have been ignored or party differences blurred.

Aggressive left-wing question-

tuition: Usher
association men in the special
compounds of the Maze prison
ireland, receiving instruction
of firearms from a fellow-prisoner
photograph is a still from film
UDA men and included in *The*
The Wire, a programme being
liger on Thames Television
(reporter writes). The film
mugged out of the prison, shot
men in paramilitary uniform
drilling, and receiving lecture
instruction in bomb-making. sn

Defence
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Staff
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s. About 350 republicans, "loyalists" live in barracks at the Maze. They are on their own command. Prison officers may not enter the prisoners' quarters without the prisoners' permission. The IRA commander is in charge of the barracks. The prisoners are in the same set-up. The IRA has a history of special status concessions in 1972, and now the Labour and Conservative governments have

ians. Since March last year the and the courts have refused to recognize the political nature of in Ulster, and only those convictions committed before March, qualify for that special status. The statute also contains a warning that the provisional IRA intends to carry out attacks in England again. Peter Hain, a reporter who made the prosecution yesterday that the senior IRA member who gave the warning in an interview in Dublin "made it clear to me that he spoke with authority".

ing of the morality of the Conservative conference has for years been an autumn ritual in spite of all the evidence that there has never been much to choose on democratic lines between any of the main conferences and the procedures followed. Lord Thorneycroft, the party chairman, and Mr Angus Maude, the deputy chairman, sat in yesterday as party managers, and had an easy run.

To prove that this is the expected prelection Conserva-

Executives of ICI lie in crash

Mr Sulkin believes that safeguarding British commercial interests is essential in forthcoming talks about EEC farm and fisheries policy. The European Commission intends to produce a plan for a Community fishing policy soon and Britain as well as the end of the year will make the final changes that will enable it to share to the demands of the common agricultural policy.

The Potato Marketing Board reported yesterday that shop prices of small potatoes had fallen to 2p a pound in England and Wales, and those of moderate size could be found for 21p. Those are the lowest prices for at least four years.

The weather that has helped produce bumper potato crops also has led to a shortage of home-grown wheat of milling quality.

Millers have already started exporting wheat from France, West Germany and Denmark. The BMRM, which makes "Mothers' bread," said: "It looks as if a great deal of the home wheat crop is going to be sold to animal feed and that some of it, First we shall have to ask to the rest of the EEC, and finally to North America."

all in farm production, page 4

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It is in farm production, page 4

Even if we died in the process, it would not be a disaster," Dr Rae told a press conference earlier. "Our survival is not the question at all: it is the country's survival."

In his address, which Dr Rae emphasized expressed his personal views, he was forward a five-point plan for reform.

1. He wanted to see an end to specialization in the sixth form. The sixth-form curriculum was too heavily biased towards the needs of the individual, and not enough attention was paid to the needs of society. Specialization closed doors to possible careers early.

2. He believed that conference schools should be prepared to refer themselves as experiment "centres of excellence" in disciplines such as mathematics, modern languages. [That would inevitably entail some loss of public financing, he suggested at the press conference.]

3. All schools must broaden their concept of what was intellectually challenging and respectable to include technology, as well as the abstract and literary disciplines.

TUC looks for quick action on tax cuts

Action on tax cuts

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, says the economic and financial constraints that forced restrictive government measures on public spending have eased. The General Council of the TUC will be examining the scope for further public spending increases and tax cuts. "We shall be look-

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Page 7

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IMF chief to go

Dr Johannes Witteveen is to resign as managing director of the International Monetary Fund

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South Africa: Opposition plans to fight Mr Vorster's surprise election on the issue of human rights

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Australia: Allegations that men were kept as "slave labour" in a saw mill arouses an outcry

7

reasons. His five-year contract ends in August, but he would probably have been offered a second term	Page 19	Palace plans: Former grace and favour apartments at Hampton Court Palace are to be opened to the public	17
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Lord Rothschild's <i>Mediations of a Broombstick</i> reviewed by Paul Barker; E. C. Hotgkin on Patrick Leigh Fermor's early travels in Europe		Business features: Christopher Thomas on the independent trade unions which have annoyed the TUC	
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Comecon and the EEC agree to open negotiations

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Sept. 21

In an important step towards closer links between West and East Europe, the EEC and Comecon, the communist economic organization, agreed today to open negotiations in the first half of next year on how to develop commercial relations.

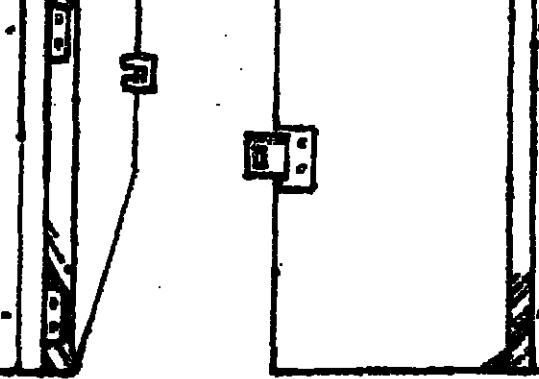
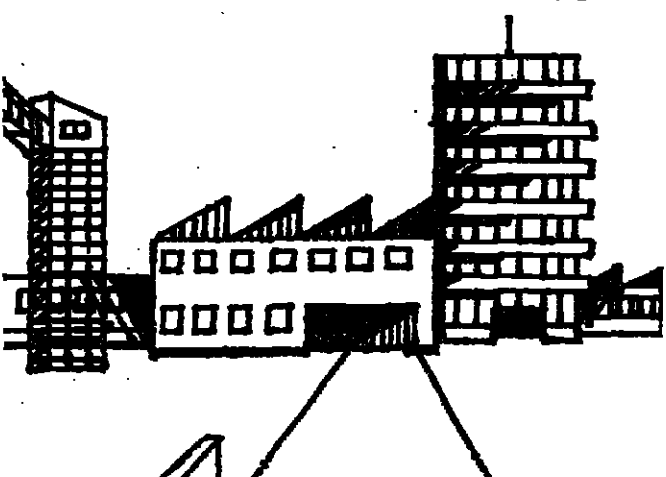
The move implies tacit Soviet recognition of the EEC.

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The total of motions is always taken to indicate what is obsessing the constituency and area rank and file. In order of weight, the principal issues this year are: employment and industrial relations (198 motions); economic policy and

Continued on page 2, col 4

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HOME NEWS

TUC wants action to raise spending and cut unemployment

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Trade union pressure on the Government for an expansionist Budget was increased sharply yesterday by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC. He said he was looking for action from the Government "quickly".

"Talk about the promised land does not put people into jobs."

His remarks came a day after the announcement of the worst unemployment figures since the war, now totalling nearly 1,400,000.

"The economic and financial constraints which forced the Government to take restrictive measures on public spending are now eased," he said. "The general council will be examining the scope for further public expenditure increases and tax cuts."

He emphasized the need for more selective intervention in the labour market. He suggested a "job expansion subsidy" to employers who increased recruitment.

Mr Murray pointed to measures already taken along those lines, such as the small firms employment subsidy, and added: "Expenditure on measures of this kind to reduce unemployment is more than justified on social grounds. And they made sound economic sense as well."

Recent research, he said, had shown that the Government had seriously underestimated the cost of unemployment to the nation.

"When account is taken of the cost of benefits and redundancy payments, tax rebates and lost tax and national insurance contributions (to say nothing of produc-

tion forgone) the Government could spend subsidies anything up to 50 per cent of average earnings of industrial workers for up to six months to keep people at work without adding to total public expenditure or to the Budget deficit."

Mr Murray, who was speaking in London, called for more money for the National Enterprise Board, more assistance to industry through the Industry Act, and special help for the construction industry.

He did not believe the underlying difficulties could be solved by permanent and continuing wage restraint. "I understand and acknowledge the need for, and indeed I have advocated, a measure of restraint in present circumstances."

But he was convinced that, unless Britain had an effective manpower policy, income policy, in the sense commonly used, would not work. If there was not an effective manpower policy, income policy was unnecessary.

"It is not good enough that at plant and company level the main trade union pressure still tends to be channelled towards non-pay levels of management—production and personnel managers and supervisors," he said. "There is still an opportunity in most companies for unions to play a part in shaping company policies and strategies."

It had been the deliberate policy of most managements to restrict the role of unions to bargaining on as limited a range of substantive issues as possible and to settling grievances.

The national debate on industrial democracy, supplemented by the free collective bargaining provisions of the Employment Protection Act, would ensure that radical changes would come. History and industrial logic were on the TUC's side.

Belfast repair papers go to public prosecutor

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Excessive payments have been made to contractors carrying out house rehabilitation schemes in west Belfast, and at one time repairs to vandalized houses were costing an average of £14,300, it was alleged yesterday.

But after the introduction of tighter contract terms the cost of the repairs in the district was reduced by about half, according to a report by the Commons Committee of Public Accounts, issued yesterday.

Certain papers have been submitted to the Northern Ireland Director of Public Prosecutions on some of the contracts undertaken, and the committee's chairman, Mr Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton, said a public announcement on the outcome of the director's investigations was urgently needed.

The report says £4m was spent by the Housing Executive between 1972/3 and 1975/6 on house rehabilitation schemes on property damaged in civil disturbances. Initially the work was carried out on the basis of normal maintenance contracts—cost plus agreed percentages of labour and materials. Most of the work was done in the predominantly Roman Catholic west Belfast area.

When the schemes first began, the work was done by the executive's maintenance department and evidence to the committee, both the executive and the Department of the Environment agreed that many lessons had been learnt from the operation of the schemes. It is apparent, the report says, that the "cost plus" form of contract was unsuitable, but in April, 1975, there had been no cause for serious concern on costs.

At that time, the committee notes, the cost of repairs had averaged about £4,800. From August onwards that year it exceeded £10,000 a house.

In its report the committee said: "We are of the opinion that the department, knowing as it did the staffing and organizational difficulties of the executive, ought to have taken a more active interest in the rehabilitation programme at an earlier stage than it did."

"It is also our opinion that the form of contract used for this type of work until nearly the end of 1975 was so unsuitable that it was inevitable that the department ought to have abandoned it in April, 1975, when it agreed to recoup the full cost of the approved rehabilitation schemes."

Summary Report of the Committee of Public Accounts, House of Commons Order Paper 530 (Stationery Office, 50p).

Threat again of sanctions over Ulster pay deal

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Less than 24 hours before the expiry of an unprecedented government ultimatum, strenuous efforts were being made in Northern Ireland last night to avert the first public showdown over the new incomes policy.

Special attention is being paid to the dispute at the privately owned west Belfast engineering works of James Mackie & Sons because the outcome might have wide implications for every section of British industry.

Yesterday union officials representing the four thousands workers employed by the textile machinery company joined employers in refusing to submit to repeated government attempts to persuade them to renegotiate a 22 per cent pay deal that has been in operation since August 1.

Faced with apparent deadlock, the Government repeated its earlier threat that export credit guarantees would be withheld from noon if the deal was not brought into line with the 10 per cent guidelines on pay.

The normal delicacy of the issues involved has been increased because the company has a strong export record, a reputation for high productivity, and a factory situated in an area of traditionally high unemployment.

The credit guarantees cover an export of £6m, worth about £6m, and the company maintains that if they were lost hundreds of its workers might be laid off.

Senior civil servants and members of the management have begun new talks. They were believed to be discussing a self-financing productivity deal that would come within the guidelines.

Mr Concanon, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, who is responsible for the negotiations, has had regular consultations with senior ministers, who regard the Mackie case as crucial for the pay policy's future.

After the meeting with union officials yesterday Mr Concanon said: "We are prepared to press this because we see that the pay guidelines are paramount and the battle of inflation is paramount. The guidelines apply to Northern Ireland just as they apply to the rest of the United Kingdom."

Mr James Graham, Northern Ireland secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, said the Government's attitude was scandalous.

Local union leaders believe that the deal, originally negotiated in early July, contains necessary increases. The company has made no public comment on the sanctions threatened. Malcolm Brown writes: There was scarcely concealed mirth among industrialists at yesterday's meeting of the grand council of the Confederation of British Industry, which was a productivity deal might defuse the Mackie issue.

While adamant against productivity deals designed simply to get round the Government's pay guidelines, the CBI seems prepared to turn a blind eye to deals where the alternative might be disruption leading to bankruptcy.

CBI leaders said after yesterday's meeting that sanctions, not being enshrined in any law, was bound to be arbitrary.

Mr John Methven, the CBI's director general, said the council had given the president a mandate to support, in public if necessary, any employer that finds himself facing sanctions despite having done his utmost to hold out against union pressures.

Business Diary, page 21

Buses withdrawn

Liverpool's municipal bus service was withdrawn by Merseyside Passenger Transport yesterday because of widespread industrial dispute has halted maintenance.



Party managers preparing for the Conservative conference (left to right): Mr Angus Maude, Lord Thorneycroft, Sir Charles Johnston, Mr David Sells, and Mr Alan Smith.

Disputes will get an airing

Continued from page 1

taxation (174); law and order (149); education (120); social services and health (105); homes and land (92); local government and its finance (69); people, Parliament, and the constitution (65); defence and European Community (62 each); immigration and race relations (60).

Other themes, in descending order, are: industry, small businesses and self-employed, overseas aid, party policy and public relations, devolution, electoral change and Rhodesia (equal with 28 motions), food and farming, energy, environment and planning, transport, Ulster, and overseas aid.

Such may be reckoned rank-and-file priorities for purposes of party management, and they

broadly follow form. For their part, the party managers, making their selection of motions for conference debate, have also followed practice. But nobody could seriously argue that they have avoided the Conservative Party's internal controversies, within or outside the Shadow Cabinet.

On October 11, the opening in Blackpool, the protagonists in the Shadow Cabinet differences over industrial strategy and trade union tactics when a new Conservative government forms will both speak. Sir Keith Joseph will lead off on the theme of industry and free enterprise in the morning; Mr Prior will follow in the afternoon with his message on industrial relations and how Conservative ministers will handle the TUC and such questions as the demand for closed shops.

Nobody may claim, therefore, that the organizers are glossing over anything to do with Sir Keith's fellow of All Souls purity of free market economics and Mr Prior's patient efforts since March, 1974, to establish some rapport with the TUC on

subjects that bedevil them as trade union leaders.

The same is true of constitutional changes involving direct elections to the EEC and devolution of some Westminster power to Scotland and perhaps Wales, both Bills to be brought in early during the new parliamentary session opening on November 3.

Mr Pym and Mr Douglas Hurd, respectively, will look after constitutional reforms and the EEC. Mr Whitelaw, the party's deputy leader, will bring his bluff common sense to all the law and order matters that make the Conservative rank and file festive.

But something else matters most. On the opening day of the conference Lord Thorneycroft will expound the rank and file to go in and win when the general elections come, early or late as the date may be, and make much of the considerable victories Conservatives have won in parliamentary by-elections and local government elections.

And, as usual, at the pre-election rally on the Friday morning, Mrs Thatcher will, as

party leader, whip up her activists into a frenzy of enthusiasm in the hope of ensuring, whatever the latest opinion polls say, that the Conservatives come home to Westminster the next time of asking with a conclusive majority in the House of Commons.

The debates and principal speakers of the conference will be: Tuesday, October 11: Industry and free enterprise, Sir Keith Joseph; education, Mr Sir John Sturges; address on party organization, Lord Thorneycroft; small businesses and self-employed, Mr Prior; industrial relations, Mr Prior; first balloted motion.

Wednesday, October 12: Economic policy, Sir Geoffrey Howe; food and farming, Mr Peyton; local government, environment and planning, Mr Keith Joseph; homes and land, Mr Rosd; the family and Conservative policy (a discussion to be opened by Lady Violet), Mr Jenkins.

Thursday, October 13: Employment, Mr Hayhoe; law and order, Mr Whitelaw; second balloted motion, Mr Davies; the constitution, Mr Pym; the European Community, Mr Hurd.

Friday, October 14: Address, Mrs Thatcher.

Liberal call to develop works councils

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Strong emphasis is given to the need to develop industrial democracy in the shop floor through works councils in a Liberal Party report published yesterday. It will go before the conference next week.

The significance of works councils, the report says, lies in the extent to which they would encourage a more participative style of representation and management. By broadening the representative base and widening the area of its responsibility, the councils enable industry to move from the established practices of power bargaining in which the parties concerned "all too frequently feel themselves to be in a win-or-lose-all situation, to a more constructive, joint problem-solving approach."

In advocating the development of works councils the report acknowledges the criticisms of trade unions and management. Trade unions often opposed to the idea because they feared it would undermine established collective bargaining procedures. Managers might be reluctant to consider the idea because of the opposition it aroused from unions.

But the report says that such criticisms often stem from a fundamental misunderstanding as to the nature of the proposals being put forward.

It says: "In the first place, it must be evident that if works councils are given the sort of responsibilities which we have described then they will be dealing with a far wider range of substantive issues than are normally considered by joint negotiating committees."

The report says that companies would need to inform the works councils in good time and in comprehensive detail about many subjects including the financial and economic results of trading, future plans, the immediate and long-term work prospects, the investment programme and the disposal of fixed capital and company profits.

"We would emphasize that, subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Industry Act, this information would be made available to the works council rather than to the authorized representatives of relevant trade unions, and would apply to all companies and not simply those currently provided for in the Industry Act, 1975."

Works councils would also need to be kept informed of management plans and be consulted on important management proposals before the decisions were taken, it says.

Four coach victims named

Four of the five people killed in the coach crash on the A68 road near Galashiels, Borders, on Tuesday night were named yesterday.

They were Mrs Wilhelmus Ure, aged 55, of Crewe Road North, and Mrs Elizabeth McCormack, aged 79, of Sligh Drive, both Edinburgh. Catherine Horner, aged 71, of Newfield Square, Nithhill, Glasgow, and Mrs Frank Forster, aged 43, of Sandringham Road, Southampton. Mrs Ure's husband, Robert, is critically ill in hospital at Galashiels. The fifth victim is believed to be a visitor from India.

TV unions move nearer to amalgamation

By Our Labour Staff

Hopes of a single trade union in broadcasting and the film industry have taken a significant step forward with the approval of a joint rule book by leaders of the Association of Broadcasting Staff (ABS), which has 14,000 members, and the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT), which has 18,500 members.

On the day he was reported missing Mr Emery was seen to arrive for work as usual at the School of Librarianship, North London Polytechnic. Shortly afterwards he was seen leaving; there had been no trace of him since.

Mrs Emery was under sedation yesterday at the house in Greystones Road, where he disappeared. He added: "The police just gave a cursory glance in the loft at the time. None of us ever considered it even a remote possibility."

A post-mortem examination will be held at Hornsey today.

Rise urged in deposit for elections

At least three thousand candidates are likely at the next general election unless the £150 deposit is increased, a compiler of election statistics says in a book published today. At the February, 1974 election there were 2,135 candidates and in October, 1974, 2,252.

Mr Fred Craig writes in a preface to the book that unless the deposit is increased the next election will undoubtedly provide a very large number of "crank" candidates.

"I would have thought that a deposit of £1,000 would not be unreasonable considering that every candidate is entitled to send one free communication through the post to each elector."

Mr Craig says. In the average constituency a candidate can obtain for £150 free postage worth more than £4,500. In order to save his deposit a candidate must poll more than an eighth of the votes cast.

Britain's Vote (Parliamentary Research Services) £5.50.

London article, page 15

Advice shortage

Scotland has 45 citizens' advice bureaux compared with 625 in England and Wales, the Scottish Consumers Council said yesterday. On a population basis there should be 65, it says.

Body of missing lecturer found in attic at home

The eight-month mystery surrounding the disappearance of Mr Richard Emery, a college lecturer, ended yesterday when his decomposed body was found in the attic of his home at Muswell Hill, north London.

Mr Emery, aged 37, described as a brilliant academic, was reported missing on January 13. His body, behind a cold water storage tank, was found by Mr Kenneth Westcomb, his brother-in-law, who said: "I can say it is Mr Emery."

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Mr Richard Emery: "Brilliant academic."

had never had any knowledge that Mr Emery had returned to his house on the day he disappeared. He added: "The police just gave a cursory glance in the loft at the time. None of us ever considered it even a remote possibility."

A post-mortem examination will be held at Hornsey today.

Welsh bakery to reopen

A bakery at Rogersstone, Gwent, which was "shut for good" by the management after workers came out in sympathy with the bakers' strike, is to be reopened today.

Mr John Randall, managing director of the Arana bakeries group, told workers yesterday that Sir Julian Hodge, chairman and main shareholder of the group, had agreed to resume production this morning.

Mr Scargill at the coalface

Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' leader, worked 800ft underground at Rockingham colliery, near Barnsley, yesterday to see what conditions at the coalface were like.

The National Coal Board envisages closing the pit within the next 12 months, but the miners say its reserves would last 18 years and that the pit could stay open with better equipment.

Howe challenge for Mr Jones

By Our Political Staff

Questions remained. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, intervened yesterday in the Conservative dispute over party relations with the TUC and the trade unions. But he directed his challenge to the trade unionists.

He recalled that last week Mr Jones, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union, challenged the Conservative Party to answer some fundamental questions. Sir Geoffrey said the challenge was remarkable because the answers should be clear beyond doubt to Mr Jones and because "Britain's long-running debate on industrial relations has surely reached its point when Mr Jones and his colleagues ought to be answering questions, not asking them."

Sir Geoffrey said it was encouraging to hear Mr Jones adopting, in almost the same words, the principles that were the bedrock of the Heath-Howe Industrial Relations Act, 1970.

Six years ago Mr Jones and his friends argued that the law "should have no place in industrial relations". That argument was repudiated, they had in reality renegeated, and maintained large parts of the original legislation, even if in disguise.

But we recognize that others, and sometimes for reasons which can be understood if not necessarily accepted, take the opposite view. And we recognize, too, the extent to which the law can be endangered if it is required to perform tasks that do not command a reasonably broad basis of consent.

We always did recognize these things. That is why the Industrial Relations Act did not, in fact, challenge the right of trade unions, on reasonable terms, to represent their members, whom they claimed to represent.

Conservatives amended the Industrial Relations Bill during its passage through Parliament to recognize the need for formal closed shops in any particular case, where the union could satisfy an independent body that such a thing was necessary and justifiable. This should serve to put much of the present debate in a long perspective. For we tried as we ought to have done, to find a fair and reasonable balance between conflicting interests.

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Sir Geoffrey put three questions to Mr Jones: 1. If a union seeks a closed shop should it not first be able to show, by secret ballot, that it has the support of a majority of all the people who would be involved? Why do those who are elsewhere so ready to champion the cause of industrial democracy apparently reject the principle in relation to the closed shop?

2. If a closed shop is acceptable to a majority of the work-people involved, why even then should workers already employed be required to conform, or lose their jobs? Why is retrospective legislation to be regarded as acceptable?

3. If a worker employed, or seeking to be employed, in a closed shop is expelled or excluded from his job by the decision of a union or a union branch, why should he not have the right to appeal to an independent legal tribunal against that decision? Why should unfair dismissal be challengeable in the courts if the dismissal was made by an employer, but not if the dismissal was effectively made by a union?

LOOK WHAT'S IN THE LISTENER THIS WEEK.

ANIMALS AND MEN.

The full text of Kenneth Clark's BBC 2 programme last Sunday, which traced the changing relations between animals and men through 3000 years of art; from the divine bulls and falcons of ancient Egypt to Stubbs's magnificent horses. He also analyses the different roles in which man has cast himself—from worshipper to destroyer to guardian of animals.

THE LONG SEARCH.

The first of thirteen articles by Ronald Eyre about man's religious experience around the world, based on his BBC 2 series *The Long Search*. This week he writes about Hinduism in different parts of India.

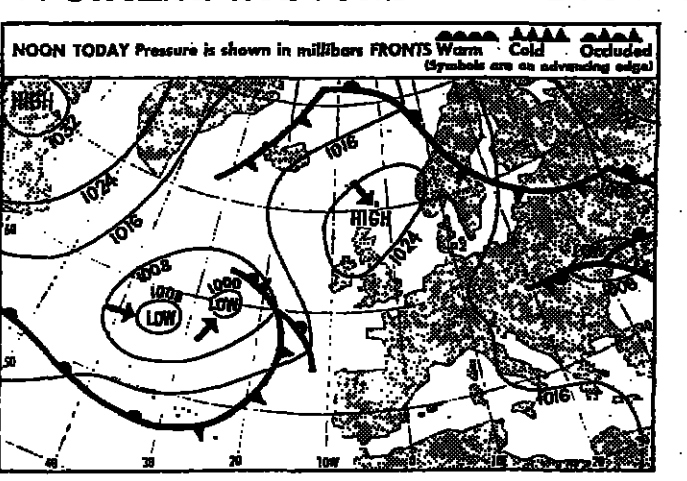
VIETNAM: THE UNTOLD STORY.

The Radio 3 interview with Major Archimedes Patti, who describes for the first time how American involvement in Vietnam began in 1944.

Get your copy today. 25p.

The Listener
for people who want to know.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today: Sun rises: 6.46 am, sets: 6.59 pm. Moon rises: 12.59 am, sets: 4.22 pm. Full moon: September 27.

Lighting up: 7.29 pm to 6.18 am. High water: London Bridge, 9.27 am, 6m (19.8ft); 10.14 pm, 6.2m (20.3ft). Lowest water: 2.43 am, 10m (32.8ft); 3.36 pm, 10.3m (34ft). Dover, 7.3 am, 5.6m (18.3ft); 7.57 pm, 5.7m (18.6ft). Hull, 1.36 am, 6.1m (20ft); 2.37 pm, 6.2m (20.3ft). Liverpool, 7.17 am, 7.6m (25ft); 7.55 pm, 7.9m (25ft).

The anticyclone over the United Kingdom will slowly decline. Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, central E, England, East Anglia, E Midlands, Channel Islands: Mostly cloudy, occasional drizzle or light rain; wind NE light; max temp 13°C (55°F).

W Midlands, SW, NW England, Wales: Mostly dry, cloudy, some drizzle or light rain; wind NE light; max temp 13°C (55°F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: Mostly dry, cloudy, bright periods; wind variable light; max temp 12°C (54°F).

N Ireland, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly dry, cloudy, wind NE or NW variable light; max temp 11°C (52°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Mostly dry at first with sunny periods, but outbreaks of rain are expected to spread NE later, becoming less cold with temp approaching normal.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind N moderate or fresh; sea slight or moderate.

English Channel (E), St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NE, light; sea slight.

Yesterday: London: Temp: max, 7 am to 7 pm, trace, 24 to 26 to 7 pm, nil. Rain: none. Humidity, 7 pm, 90 per cent. Rain, 24 hr to 7 pm, trace. Sun, 24 hr to 7 pm, nil. Bar: mean sea level, 7 pm, 1,019.3 millibars, steady.

1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY: MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Abertillery	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Abingdon	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Adwick	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Agincourt	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alford	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alton	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alton	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alton	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alton	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alton	51	SE	100	50	SE	100

At the resorts

24 hours to 6 pm, September 21

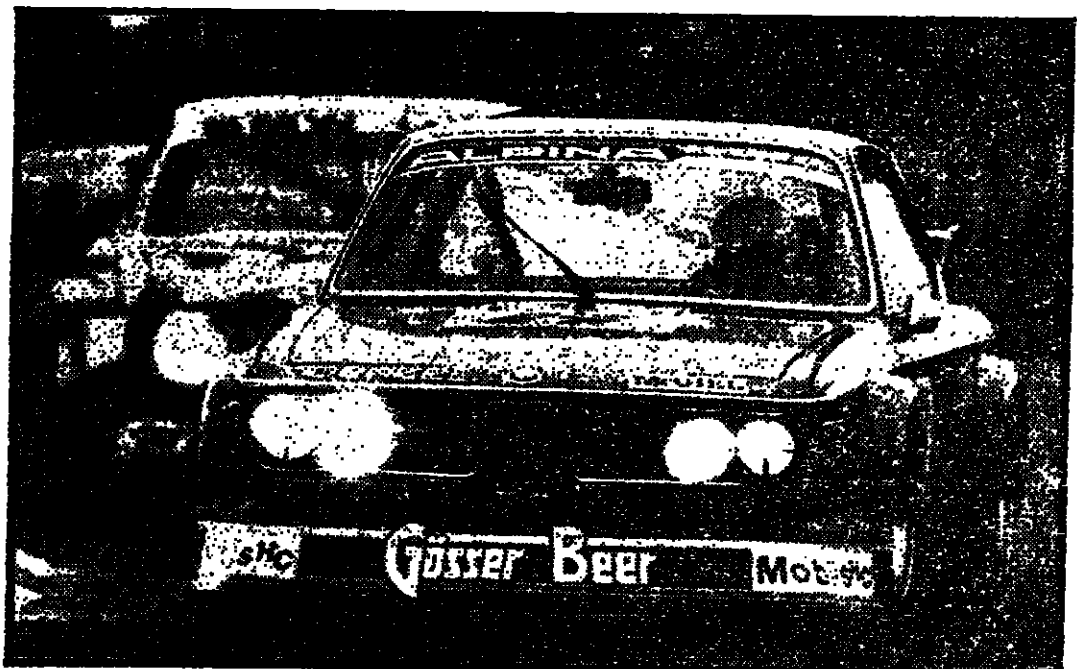
Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Abertillery	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Abingdon	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Adwick	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Agincourt	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alford	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alton	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alton	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alton	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alton	51	SE	100	50	SE	100
Alton	51	SE	100	50	SE	100

Overseas selling prices

Area

RAC Tourist Trophy Race. Silverstone Sunday Sept 18, 1977.

We'd like to thank our competition for trying so hard.



**Results of the RAC Tourist Trophy Race,
a round of the European Touring Car Championship:**

1st. Alpina BMW CSL driven by Quester and Walkinshaw
(Average winning speed 105.5mph)

2nd. Luigi BMW CSL 3rd. Luigi BMW CSL

4th. Leyland Jaguar XJ 5.3C

Class 'C' Group II up to 2 Litres:

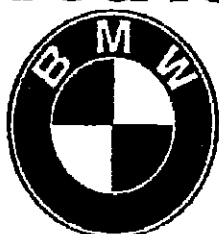
1st. Heyco BMW 320i
2nd. Alpina BMW 2002
3rd. BMW 2002

Access Manufacturers' Team Award:

1st. Alpina BMW

All results subject to official confirmation

BMW. Race bred for better cars.



For the joy of motoring.

BMW Concessionaires GB Ltd, 991 Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex. 01-568 9155. Export, NATO & Diplomatic: 56 Park Lane, London W1. 01-629 9277.

Liberal call to develop works councils

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter
Strong emphasis is placed on the need to develop works councils on the day after yesterday. It will be the conference next week.

The significance of the report is that it would encourage a more co-operative style of management. By widening the area of responsibility, the council is urged to move away from the traditional practices of the past. It is concerned that all the people involved in the industry should be able to contribute to the solution of problems.

In advocating the development of works councils, the report acknowledges the fact that management and trade union are opposed to the idea. It is feared that the establishment of such councils might be a step towards the normalisation of the relationship between management and workers.

But the report says that the criticisms often made of the fundamental principles of the proposals being put forward are unfounded.

Four coach victims named

Four of the five coaches involved in the crash on the A66 near Carlisle on Tuesday were named yesterday. They were the Leyland, the Volvo, the Volvo and the Leyland. The fifth coach was a Volvo.

lings

At the resorts
24 hours to 6 pm

At the resorts
24 hours to 6 pm

HOME NEWS

Fall in farm production 'rules out hope of £600m import saving'

From Our Veterinary Correspondent
Swansea

After an extraordinary increase in productivity and the greatest technological revolution in its history, British agriculture has temporarily run out of steam, Sir Emrys Jones, Principal of the Royal Agricultural College, told the British Veterinary Association yesterday.

Sir Emrys, who was giving the Woodridge memorial lecture, in Swansea, said that in the past three decades cereal production had increased fivefold, and that of meat and milk had doubled. The harvesting of most crops was almost completely mechanized. Man-hours for wheat production had fallen from 82 in 1950 to 16 in 1976, during which time wheat yields had increased by 60 per cent. All that had been achieved with half the agricultural labour and a continuing loss of land, recently running at 148,000 acres a year.

The White Paper, *Food from our own resources*, in 1975 expected a growth rate of not more than 2.5 per cent a year, and all agreed that that seemed feasible at the time. Today it was clear that the objectives were unattainable, Sir Emrys said.

It was true that there had been two disastrous seasons climatically, but something

more fundamental had caused the first decline in agricultural output for a quarter of a century. That ruled out import saving of £600m by the early 1980s, at a time when there was no longer a reliable world food surplus, and made Britain increasingly vulnerable to wild fluctuations in world food prices.

Sir Emrys said there was little to suggest that future prices for the British farmer would compensate for increased costs and encourage investment. Discouragement of agricultural production would probably multiply and accelerate. Urban society was concerned about the methods of modern farming, the welfare of farm animals in intensive units, the pollution of water, and changes in the landscape.

The only way forward was to become even more efficient, and new initiatives were needed. Sir Emrys deplored the Government's failure to invest in the preventive medicine programme proposed in the 1975 Swann report on the veterinary profession. The annual loss in British livestock from disease was about £1,000m a year. "Can we as a nation really afford this?", he asked. Politicians and administrators must be persuaded that investment in preventive farm medicine was a national dimension in agricultural policy.

The man who collected companies leaves £50m

By Alan Hamilton

Mr Gordon Berger, whose name was a household word to some of his 500,000 tenants, died in the East End of London on Tuesday night aged 82. He leaves behind assets estimated at £50m and a reputation as the largest private landlord in Britain.

Mr Berger died at the home of his sister, Sarah, in an unremarkable terrace house in Gidea Crescent, Clapton. For many years before his death he had occupied a shabby, peeling, ground-floor flat in Hackney owned by Wise Products, one of the 350 companies in which the Berger family had a stake. It was the headquarters of a remarkable property empire, which stretched from Brighton to Glasgow.

Little is known of Mr Berger, except that he arrived as a penniless immigrant from Romania in the 1920s, and came to own half a million properties. Those who attempted to throw light on his affairs described him as the Howard Hughes of the property world, and the *Jewish Chronicle* once described to him the action property was God's gift to the righteous.

Mr Berger was a prominent member of the Sotomayor, a Jewish sect so strict that it does not even recognize Israel, but it is a secular state. All his spare moments were reported to be spent in prayer, and he gave large charitable donations for the founding of a Talmudic college in London, all of which taught the extreme orthodox views of his religion.

He was born in Poland but spent most of his early life in Romania, where he set up in business as a clothing manufacturer. He came to London, penniless, in the 1920s to escape persecution, and borrowed £3 from a friend.

With that money he bought a sack of dried beans, sold it from door to door, and earned the nickname of Getzel the bean man. With the bean profits he set up a rag stall, but his real break came during the war, when he set up an East End factory to manufacture trench batteries, a highly prized commodity at the time.

His battery factory, staffed by refugee labour, was helped by profits from his sale of other desirable war time commodities including zip fasteners, elastic, saccharin and powder compacts.

He did his first property deal in 1944, when, with the help of an £800 loan from a friend, he bought 16 houses in Merton, south-west London.



Susan Jackson, aged 17, of Altrincham, Greater Manchester, at the Kellogg's National Exhibition of Children's Art at The Mail Galleries, London, yesterday, with the self-portrait that won her £400.

Courting the Scottish voter 3

Frustrating time for the Liberals

By Ronald Faux

The Liberal dilemma in Scotland appears to be that of having many good policies but little appeal as a third party or even a protest vote. Scots clearly feel that a protest with a more substantial Scottish stamp, in the form of an SNP vote, is the most effective way of calling Westminster's attention north of the border.

That attitude really developed between the February and October elections in 1974 and in Inverness, turned Mr Russell Johnston's seat from safe to marginal. The SNP moved from fourth to second place.

It is difficult to argue against nationalism. Scots are patriotic and proud, but the nationalist party has tried to project the SNP as the only party for this pride, which is what people like me resent most," the Liberal MP, who is leader of the party in Scotland, said.

Sometimes this new political logic works cruelly. An Inverness man wrote to Mr Johnston, thanking him for sorting out a difficulty. He added that he supported the SNP because it was the party that "got things done".

For Scottish Liberals particularly it was frustrating to be the party that consistently pressed for a Scottish assembly with economic powers and a

large degree of devolution, only to see the SNP reap the benefits with far more extreme policies. It was, after all, Russell Johnston who introduced a Scottish self-government Bill on the subject of devolution or on European affairs and filling the Liberal slot on television.

Mr Johnston was the first United Kingdom Liberal MP in the European Parliament, serving on the political and regional transport committees. Such extra responsibilities cannot help one man tending a constituency under pressure, but his agent firmly puts the rise of the SNP in Inverness down to support from the young.

Liberals were the party of the over-thirties, and young people were seeking some new force full of vitality and change. How could anyone satisfy that by being straight, fair and oppressively sensible?

Next: Conservatives

Call to set up 'community risks' advisory service

By Our Science Editor

A proposal for an experiment with a new type of organization called a "community risks advisory service" has been made by the Council for Science and Society. The idea is to provide advice for particular occupational groups and localities on hazards associated with technical developments. It is one outcome of a study, *The Acceptability of Risks*, published as a special report today.

The findings are bound to provoke controversy in that the report argues that scientific and technological advance has overcome many commonplace risks in the community, but has created more serious ones, which are sometimes hard to define and to eliminate.

The Fishburne explosion and the release of tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin at Seveso were among the accidents examined by a working party including Brigadier R. L. Allen, former Chief Inspector of Civil Services Ammunition; Professor Eric

Burhop, of University College London; Dr M. Flood, Friends of the Earth; Mr Nathan of the New College, Oxford; Mr Anthony Woolf, chairman of the Lawyers' Ecology Group; and Dr Jerome Ravetz, secretary to the council.

From the study the group concludes that there are obvious shortcomings when genuine discussion of risk encounters questions involving costs, benefits, probabilities and notions of acceptability, and above all questions of choice.

The study group regrets that "hazards of all sorts have been shamefully neglected in scientific and technological research". The official agencies established for regulation and control purposes have not, in the opinion, adequate resources and standards for making fair and impartial judgments.

The suggestion for a community risks advisory service is made because new legislation on health and safety is intended to cover a wider field than the workplace.

Religious clash on Windscale

From a Special Correspondent
Whitehaven

Religious views clashed at the Windscale inquiry yesterday. While the British Council of Churches was voicing objections to the proposed 50 members of the Windscale Christian Fellowship made clear that council's views did not coincide with their own.

The fellowship produced a petition explaining its attitude on the nuclear issue, but Lord Silcock, QC, for British Nuclear Fuels, decided not to produce it as evidence. The petition read:

We, the undersigned, Christians working at Windscale, have seriously considered the ethical objections that have been raised against nuclear power, general and fuel reprocessing in particular. We are satisfied that, provided that current standards are maintained with respect to harm to present, or future generations, here or abroad, that does not mean alternative energy strategies.

That was in direct opposition to the evidence of the council given by Dr David Gosling, lecturer in theology at Hull University, who said the council considered it unwise to develop oxide reprocessing facilities on a commercial scale before a satisfactory scheme had been achieved for safe disposal of waste.

The Rev Alan Postlethwaite, Vicar of Whitehaven, supporting the evidence of the council, said little had been done to mitigate latent unease.

Arrest warrant for woman in Keating case

A warrant for the arrest of Mrs Jane Maurice, aged 31, a former associate of Mr Tom Keating, the artist, has been obtained by Scotland Yard's art and antiques squad. It was learnt in London yesterday. It alleges that she obtained a cheque for £99 by deception.

Mrs Maurice, formerly Jane Kelly, now lives with her husband in Toronto.

Mr Keating, of Lower Park, Deham, Essex, who is on bail, faces nine charges of conspiracy and deception.

BBC to restore radio cuts

The BBC is to restore some of the cuts made in its Radio One and Two services. The stations amalgamated for a 24-hour afternoon show at the beginning of 1975.

The move is the second phase of refuting radio hours lost in the BBC's economy drive over the past three years. The corporation said the cuts could be restored sometime in the autumn.

Health risk from reactor accident assessed

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A report calculating the incidence of various cancers and hereditary disorders that would be caused by the accidental release of a fast-breeder nuclear reactor is published today.

The research, by the National Radiological Protection Board, at the request of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive, is one of a series of preparatory studies. They will be needed by the inspectorate to assess the suitability of a fast-breeder reactor for the operation of a power station.

Proposals for the first power station using a fast-breeder reactor, CFRI, were made more than two years ago by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. In view of the safety and security issues to be covered, Mr John Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, has promised that

a planning application to build CFRI will be subject to a public inquiry.

Some of the inevitable questions that will be examined by such an inquiry are indicated in today's report. One of its purposes is to assess the consequences of the most extreme accident that could occur. On that information, the nuclear inspectorate can define how much protection the reactor requires for it to be regarded as safe for licensing.

The worst conditions examined by the protection board involves the melting of the nuclear fuel in the core of the reactor and the release of vapours of the surrounding vessels, of an intensely radioactive aerosol cloud.

Such an incident is described as improbable in a foreword to the report by the inspectorate. It argues that it is much more likely that a breakdown in safety would be detected by multiple safety systems and that the

reactor would be safely shut down without damage.

Most of the calculations are for the release of one tonne of material of fast-reactor fuel. The core of the proposed 1,300 megawatt station contains at the start 20 tonnes of a mixture of plutonium and uranium fuel, but during its operation much of this is changed to provide a mixture of 600 radionuclides.

Those products present different degrees of hazard, depending on the proportion of each, their radioactive lifetime, the type of radiation emitted as they decay, and the form in which they are released.

The characteristics of an aerosol cloud affecting dispersal and absorption by the body can differ greatly. One composed of microscopic particles can be more dangerous than another containing larger droplets.

Thus, in judging the hazard, the fast-breeder products and activities contained in irradiated fuel have been listed accord-

ing to their volatility. Many of the 600 are regarded as negligible in determining the level of exposure after a release.

A group of 32 has been compiled with the proportion of radiation dose that each would give if absorbed into the body to the lungs, bone marrow, testes, ovaries, liver and thyroid over periods ranging from hours to 50 years.

For a severe release, all the population within two kilometres would be expected to die from early effects of radiation. The proportions suffering from short-term, as opposed to longer-term, lethal effects are calculated for distances up to 10km from the site of the accident.

An estimate of the Radiological Consequences of a Nuclear Accident, *Relatives of Radiotoxicity from a Fast-Breeder Reactor*, NRPB-R53 (National Radiological Protection Board, Harwell, Didcot, Stationery Office, £3.50).

Planning units suggested for each ministry

By Peter Hennessy

The appointment of special advisers from outside the Civil Service by both Labour and Conservative governments has shown that ministers have become overloaded with work in recent years. But the recruitment of still more advisers, as recommended last week by the Commons Expenditure Committee, will be insufficient alone to cover a planning unit further argued in an article published today by two scholars from the Centre for Studies in Social Policy.

Mr Rudolf Klein and Miss Janet Lewis suggest instead that a recommendation made by the Fulton committee in 1963, but not fully implemented by the Civil Service, should be revived to fill that need in the Keating case.

A senior policy adviser in each government department. They would be staffed by a mixture of civil servants and outsiders, working separately from the departmental hierarchy, and reporting directly to the minister in providing alternative policy analysis to that furnished by departmental officials.

Those units would not be modelled on the French cabinet system, as the permanent secretary would remain head of the department and not give way to *chef de cabinet*. Nor would they be an enlarged private office, as favoured by the expenditure committee, but would represent instead an entirely new administrative unit.

Mr Klein and Miss Lewis reached their conclusion after studying the development and institutionalization of special advisers during the past two decades. Its results appear today under the title *Advice and Dissent in British Govern-*

Schools to discuss plan for replacing A levels

By Our Education Correspondent

Detailed discussions across the country are to begin on proposals by the Schools Council to replace GCE A levels with broader based examinations at the age of 18 and over.

The first reports from a total of 26 schools, which will include a number of (further) examinations and curricula in different subjects are being sent at the end of this month to all secondary schools sixth form colleges, colleges of further and higher education, subject teacher associations, major industrial and commercial organizations, the GCE and CSE examining boards and others.

The reports contain specimen N and F syllabuses, assessment schemes and question papers, and are the essential groundwork on which the N and F proposals must be

Invalid tricycle inquiry

Sir Idwal Pugh, the Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman), is to investigate the decision to phase out invalid tricycles after a complaint about a "contradictory" reasons given by the Government.

The complaint was made by a disabled constituent of Mr Jeff Rooker, Labour MP for Perry Bar, who passed it on to Mr Rooker. Mr Rooker has also given the commissioner a dossier of letters from the Prime Minister, Mr Morris, Under Secretary of State (Disabled), and Mr Horam, Under Secretary of State for Transport, as well as various other government statements.

Earlier this year Sir Idwal wrote to Mr Rooker, saying

that he would have to make further inquiries at the Department of Health. In the light of the replies he received he has decided on an investigation.

Mr Rooker said yesterday that he was not opposed in principle to phasing out the tricycle provided disabled drivers could obtain a satisfactory alternative.

"In the absence of such a guarantee the status quo should be maintained, and this means issuing the tricycle to newly disabled who can or who wish to drive," he said.

Since that policy was stopped in August last year about 1,200 people have been paid £5 a week mobility allowance.

Teacher hit with rifle gets £25,000

An Ulster teacher, who was hit on the head with a rifle butt, was awarded £25,000 damages against the Ministry of Defence yesterday.

A court in Belfast was told that Mr Patrick Devine, aged 36, of Rossmore Primary School, Londonderry, suffers from headaches and blackouts as a result of the blow. He has poor concentration and finds it difficult to sleep.

According to the statement of claim, Mr Devine was struck when he tried to help his headmaster who was being abused by troops in November, 1974.

Council tenants' high spending on maintenance

Council tenants spend as much on the repair and maintenance of their housing as local authorities do, in fact more, a report published today by the National Consumer Council says.

The average expenditure on a dwelling by local authorities in the year 1975/6 was £67.2, while tenants spent an average £86 on repair, maintenance and improvements.

Much of the work done by the tenants was the council's responsibility, Miss Hilary Robinson, author of the report and research officer in the NCC's social policy unit, says.

The report suggests that tenants should be charged more for the cost of repairs by the council or that they should be allowed to do more of the work themselves.

Two charged in Mormon case

Two people are to appear at Epsom Magistrates' Court today on charges in connection with the alleged kidnapping of Mr Kirk Anderson, a Mormon missionary, at East Ewell, Surrey, last Wednesday.

Joyce McInney, aged 27, and Keith Joseph May, aged 25, are charged with kidnapping and unlawfully imprisoning, and with possessing an imitation firearm with intent to commit an offence.

Mary Bell loses privileges

Mary Bell, aged 20 who absconded from Moor Court open prison, Staffordshire, ten days ago, has been ordered by the board of prison visitors to forfeit privileges for 28 days.

Loss of privileges means she is not allowed to associate with other prisoners in the evening or to watch television. She cannot have a personal radio in her cell, visit the prison shop or go to the prison cinema.

WHERE TO SEE THE SUBLINE CX.

Avon
Bath, Independent Motors 24730 25552
Bristol, Bacon Motors 44833 44720
Bristol, Eurocars 28483 281 51108/7
Weston-Super-Mare, Rhodes Garages 23595

Bedfordshire
Bedford, Smith & Carpenter 354423
Leighton Buzzard, Camden Motors 2041

Berkshire
Cottingham, The Ford Motor Co.
Newbury, Murray & Whitaker 41911 & 41536
Reading, Overy Cars 57598
Slough, Overy Cars 77234
Surrey, Summerville Garage 78454/5
Wokingham, Concorda Garage 78454/5

Buckinghamshire
Chesham, R. & J. Delli
Gerrards Cross 95511
High Wycombe, Russell's Motor Service
Milton Keynes 56151

Cambridgeshire
Cambridge, H. R. Cambridge 59151
Peterborough, Peterborough Spares 62417
Peterborough, Peterborough 62417

Cheshire
Barnston, Sorensen Engineering Service Company 05405 2247
Chester, Barker Motor Company 67277 8
Crewe, H. & J. Crewe 3495
Warrington, Grappenthall Motor Company 68444
Widnes, C&T Garage 051424 4516

Cleveland
Stockton-on-Tees, Parklands 780025

Cornwall
St Austell, P. C. Tomlin, St Austell 241 638
St Austell, H. & J. St Austell 54213

Derbyshire
Derby, B. & J. 21528
Derby, H. & J. 21528
Derby, H. & J. 21528

Devon
Barnstaple, West Cross Garage 812295 & 812296
Barnstaple, West Cross Garage 812295 & 812296
Barnstaple, West Cross Garage 812295 & 812296

Dorset
Bournemouth, Old & Sons 247 8
Bournemouth, Old & Sons 247 8
Bournemouth, Old & Sons 247 8

Durham
Durham, Austin Sanderson & Co 68753
Durham, Austin Sanderson & Co 68753
Durham, Austin Sanderson & Co 68753

Essex
Chelmsford, H. & J. 68266 7
Chelmsford, H. & J. 68266 7
Chelmsford, H. & J. 68266 7

Gloucestershire
Cheltenham, Eldons Automobiles 55381
Cheltenham, Eldons Automobiles 55381
Cheltenham, Eldons Automobiles 55381

Hampshire
Purton, Stubbins Supreme, Crowtham 76344
Purton, Stubbins Supreme, Crowtham 76344
Purton, Stubbins Supreme, Crowtham 76344

Hants
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Hereford & Worcester
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WEST EUROPE

French Union of Left determined to agree on common policy despite fundamental differences

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Sept. 21

Leaders of the troubled Union of the Left met today to agree on a common programme amid scenes of indescribable confusion.

A week after M. Robert Fabre, leader of the Left Radicals, plunged the three-party alliance into the worst crisis of its five-year existence, he met M. Marchais, the Communist leader, and M. Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, to bring up to date their common programme of 1972.

All three, leading 10-men delegations, had to force their way through a jostling mass of photographers and reporters at Communist Party headquarters, falling over one another in the crush.

When they adjourned this evening, it was not clear how long the discussions would continue beneath the portraits of Marx, Lenin and Thorez. But what is certain is that they will succeed in producing some sort of agreement on the updated programme—some points in dispute are left blank.

M. Fabre will not walk out

again; and the three opposition parties know they cannot afford a second breakdown which this time would be fatal to the Union of the Left.

But all concerned agree that the going will be tough. The week of contacts and negotiations behind the scenes, which have preceded today's meeting, have brought conflicting standpoints a little closer, especially on the extent of nationalization. They have not resolved the fundamental conflict, glossed over in the 1972 common programme.

On the one hand the Socialists and Left Radicals defend the society of free enterprise, while the ultimate aim of the Communists is a collectivist system. Beyond the controversies over the national minimum wage, differentials, nationalization and defence, that is the nub of the matter. The Left Radicals' walk-out last week made this quite clear.

The Communists have made some concessions. They probably realized that they upped the stakes too much in recent weeks, and that this damaged their image in public opinion, as the latest poll shows.

They have dropped the proposal to nationalize oil companies and Peugeot-Citroën, and reduced the number of subsidiaries of the nine commercial and industrial groups enumerated in the original programme of 1972 from over 1,400 to 729. But they are intractable on the nationalization of steel.

The socialists continue to insist that only the time concerns and the very few subsidiaries be nationalized, as well as a few "strategic" firms, making a total of 150 or so.

On the provision in the 1972 programme for nationalization of other firms if a majority of the workers demand it, which the Left Radicals regard as the open door to collectivism—the Communists have agreed to the Socialist compromise formula of a reference to the constitution.

But if the gap on specific points has been narrowed down, it is also still very wide on defence, the original subject of controversy between Socialists and Communists last summer. The atmosphere of mutual suspicion between Socialists and Communists has if anything been worsened by recent events.

Fresh round in French fight against bureaucracy

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Sept. 21

The French Government has once again gone to war against excessive paperwork. It adopted 101 measures designed to simplify administrative procedures in 10 different fields.

We are going to suppress all this paperwork," M. Barre, the Prime Minister, said as he left today's Cabinet meeting. "The question is not to save paper, but to save people and firms floundering under the weight of procedures and paper."

The Prime Minister mentioned the fact, well known to any foreigner living in this country, that in order to obtain an administrative decision, one had to approach up to three different offices. "Henceforth, only one will be competent," he stated.

He said that he had been struck by the fact that no less than 70 different certificates or declarations were required during a man's active life to obtain social security benefits, pensions and other like.

To obtain a gun licence—and there are over two million held in this country—it is necessary to get a stamp from the Credit Agricole, go to the mairie to obtain a form, and to the tax collector to pay the fee for the licence.

Sometimes these different steps take up a whole day. In future, they will be simplified and carried out at the local town hall.

The 10 main administrative branches in which the new simplified procedures are to be introduced are social security and health, justice, the Post Office, education, building permits, ex-servicemen's pension, national service, radio and television licences, income tax, relations between the ministries and firms and relations between the ministries and their officials, which are more simple than relations between the ministries and the public.

If the Government's intentions are really carried out, it will take only a fortnight, for instance to obtain a *Baccalauréat* (GCE) certificate. At present, because this takes so long, a provisional attestation is issued, pending dispatch of the formal document.

To obtain social aid to indigent persons no less than 12 forms have to be filled in at present, in future only one will be necessary.

Newspapers' protest after bomb attack

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Sept. 21

Newspapers in Barcelona closed down for the day in protest at the bomb explosion in the offices of the satirical magazine *Pagés* yesterday which killed two people. The Apostolic Anticomunist Alliance has claimed responsibility for the blast.

The attack was condemned today by newspapers, politicians and trade unionists. The alliance, which has claimed responsibility for explosions in the past, admitted the attack in a telephone call to the newspaper *Mundo Diario*.

Other groups have also claimed responsibility, but given the nature of the magazine attacked, which frequently lampoons the right, it is most likely that the alliance was responsible. The magazine had received numerous right wing threats.

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OVERSEAS

How CIA tried to spray LSD into party

From David Cross
Washington, Sept. 21

Rather than emulating James Bond in its activities, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) this week produced enough material to fill a script for "Monty Python's Flying Circus".

During their testimony before a Senate subcommittee, participants in the agency's controversial drug research programme have described experiments which backfired and tests involving such bizarre apparatus as cocktail swizzle sticks and stink bombs.

Even Senator Edward Kennedy, the normally staid chairman of the subcommittee on health, was unable to hide his mirth when Mr David Rhodes, a former CIA agent, told how an experiment to test an LSD aerosol failed because the weather was too hot.

Three CIA agents had flown to San Francisco to round up unsuspecting merry-makers from bars to test the efficacy of the spray in a house hired by the agency specifically for drug experiments. All went well until the agents realized the party room was not air-conditioned and all the windows would have to be left open because the weather was too hot.

The only suitable room in the house was the bathroom, and, unable to find a sufficiently good excuse to explain to guests why a party should be held there, one of the agents was reduced to testing the LSD on himself. "It didn't do enough, so he felt it wouldn't be very useful," commented Mr Rhodes. At that point they wisely decided to abandon the test.

Another former CIA employee described an experiment involving a launching device for special stink bombs which could be used for breaking up demonstrations. The launcher was considered necessary because of accidents with the normal stink bomb thrown out of hotel windows. On one occasion, the agent explained, a badly aimed bomb had hit the window and bounced back into the room to his discomfort.

One of his colleagues had tested special sticks covered with a special product designed to melt in liquids; a hypodermic syringe designed to inject drugs into a hostess's buttocks; and a thin strip of glass which, when stepped on, would produce a pungent smell.

The jovial tone of the hearings may well change, however, when other witnesses appear before the subcommittee. Among them are Admiral Stansfield Turner, the new CIA director, and Dr Sidney Gottlieb, a former CIA biochemist who is reported to have been in charge of the drug research programme.

Members of the subcommittee have made on secret of their intense distaste for what amounted to a series of tests designed to discover whether the human mind could be controlled by drugs. Although the project was abandoned some years ago, apparently without any worthwhile findings, Congress is anxious to ensure that such a project never be attempted again.

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Under fire in Lebanon war zone

Continued from page 1

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The Israelis later said they had fired into Lebanon. Some of the shells also appeared to be coming from those tanks on the ridge.

Abu Mayrad sheltered with seven of his colleagues in an old garage in Tel el Saqi's only street as the shells came over their heads with a great rushing noise. Several crashed into the wall of a Greek Orthodox Church, 300 yards down the road, while another deafening blast demolished a bungalow in front of us.

Every 50 seconds, a group of Palestinians, some of them only boys aged 13 or 14, would return the fire with a 75mm recoilless rifle from their hideouts in the hills.

The Palestinians drank hot sweet tea from glass cups as the barrage continued, undeterred even by the shells which appeared to carry phosphorus. These exploded with long columns of white smoke that climbed into the sky.

When one of the commandos ran his finger along the interior surface of shrapnel from one of the missiles, the brown liquid inside leaked immediately against his finger.

Southern Lebanon now seems to be taking on the serious political implications which Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), attributed to the battles last weekend. The Israelis have clearly helped to strengthen and stabilise the Christian Lebanese buffer zone in the south—thus Mr Begin's suggestion of ceasefire discussions—and have at the same time dealt a serious blow to the PLO's prestige.

Yet the Lebanese Christian gains are not as impressive as they have been making out. Yesterday they were claiming they had taken the villages of Karkoub and Tel el Saqi, and several neighbouring villages. But when I drove into both villages today, I found the Palestinians were still in control. Only the village



A phosphorous shell explodes in Tel el Saqi, the Lebanon village from which Robert Fisk wrote this dispatch.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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THEATRE AND BALLET

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THE KINGFISHER (Grand Opera) 19.00-20.00
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THE ARTS

Colin Davis: a contented man

"My children think that I'm terribly old already. They joke about my funeral and claim that I'll be carried off shoulder-high, sitting in my armchair, smoking my pipe and gazing at a portrait of Wagner. I suppose that at least it makes me a little like a latter-day Syrian king."

Colin Davis, musical director of Covent Garden throughout the Seventies, appears neither alarmed nor relieved nor even particularly satisfied that he will be 50 on Sunday. This fact

is treated with the equanimity that has come to him during his last two or three years at the Royal Opera House.

"What does being 50 mean? I hope it suggests that there are another 20 years to go. I'm chiefly impressed by the amount of music I still do not know. I see those scores, pages and pages of them, stretching away from here... so, not to eternity, but far, far into the distance. It's time to learn some more Mahler symphonies, some Bruckner. And then there is that portrait of Wagner. I think that I have put a little Wagner under the belt while I've been here at Covent Garden, but there are three major works of his I've yet to tackle, *Lohengrin*, *Meistersinger* and *Parsifal*."

To which order will they be taken? "Let's say that I want to study *Meistersinger* just as soon as I can and that *Parsifal* will be left to last."

Davis has long had an exclusive recording contract with Philips. As time wears on, the world's leading conductors are busy trying to extricate themselves from exclusivity clauses he says that he is happy to stay allied to a single company.

If they can provide me with the repertoire I want to record and the right facilities then I see no reason to change or to be unfaithful. Occasionally we have had arguments, but in the end they have agreed to most of the things I have wanted to do. Berlioz, Tippet, Peter Grimes. Remember that they are not an enormous company with the need to satisfy the demands of a large roster of rival conductors. They do not have to go through the hassle of agreeing a project provided that Maestro A is satisfied with recording this symphony and that Maestro B is content with something else. We have got on very well together for a number of years now."

Probably the most surprising Davis record issued this year has been *Tosca*. He had not conducted Puccini since his days at the Sadler's Wells company in Rosebery Avenue. The set turned out to be a considerable success mainly because of Davis's own contribution with the Covent Garden orchestra. Will he now conduct it at the Opera House?

"I doubt it. *Tosca* remains pretty constantly in our repertoire and that means that it often has to go on without much rehearsal. I see my job as renewing the repertoire, putting life back into works which have been played for a time. Although, almost in contradiction to that remark, we are



planning to record *Bohème* with our own orchestra. Certainly the pleasure I derived from *Tosca* has led me to the earlier work. And if we go to Japan, as I hope, in two years' time then I'd like to take *Tosca* together with *Grimes* and our new *Idomeneo*."

"Almost by chance I'm moving back into the mainstream of the Italian repertoire. As well as *Bohème* we have two Verdis planned, *Salò* and *Forza*. This is virtually new territory for me and some may complain that I'm making the expedition the wrong way round, that I should have started my term at Covent Garden with operas like these. But I wonder if they are right. It could be an advantage to come to such works fresh and when you are supposed to be at the height of whatever powers you possess. I never want to be in the position of the opera conductor who sighs and says, 'God, another *Trout* tonight'."

Much in the same way that James Levine, musical director of the Met, has announced that he is reserving nearly all his

Murder in the Cathedral

Chichester Cathedral

Ned Chaillet

Patrick Garland's production of T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* takes place throughout Chichester Cathedral; in the transept, the nave and in every nook. A beguiling legend greets the public at the entrance and monks and peasants, jostle with spectators while medieval musicians wander through the crowd. As one of the mock monks purr it, there is always a crowd on feast days.

Perhaps there is too much of a crowd for Mr Garland's intentions. Dismissing the formality of chairs and the usual transference of the play, he has attempted to mobilize the action, letting the actors lead the audience on a tour of the building.

While it often means that spectators might end up next to Thomas Becket or his murderers, their numbers also mean that the view is often of somebody's neck. I would think that his most evocative effect, speaking from a chorus of townspeople behind screens, was actually witnessed by less than half the audience.

Mr Garland's design has its merits. When the action swirls into a new scene, the audience, but when the audience moves after it in a slow shuffle it becomes a kind of tourism and dramatic momentum is lost.

It would be possible for the actors to convey the action more at major points, compensating for the lack of visibility by dramatically shattering

ing Eliot's rhythms, but the fault is delivered melodically. There can be no surprises when the chrysothron and monks arrive, ways clear, and clear they are, sometimes at the expense of meaning.

Playing to expectations is a fault that also affects Keith Michell's performances as Becket in his farewell appearance at Chichester where he has directed the festival for four years. He gives the character unremitting sonority and solemnity, rolling off the sermon in the worst rhetorical style of preachers so that the sound is reassuring but the meaning lost. He is more effective facing down his murderers, offering himself up to sacrifice.

The festival company of actors step into their traditional roles with enthusiasm and conviction for the most part. Although there is some timidity in speaking to the audience that should be shaken off. Charles Keating's direction of the choir of Chichester Cathedral and Mr Garland's introduction of the liturgical music is an impressive bonus, as are the voices in the choir.

Mr Garland was right to try to break from traditional forms of production but his choice of actors and directors, some of whom have never before been in the theatre, has not permitted himself the luxury of total innovation.

England has the actors and the music, but the festival is a little out of step with the times. It calls its directors "producers" and treats them as glorified stage managers. What it needs now are directors of vision who are not afraid of the freedom of imagination which *Murder in the Cathedral* needs.

Soft Blue Shadows

Sadler's Wells

John Percival

The new production of *Soft Blue Shadows* that was given its first performance by the Royal Ballet at Sadler's Wells on Tuesday is actually the last section only of the work André Previn originally mounted for his own company, the Royal Ballet of the Netherlands. Set to Fauré's *Venezian Songs* on poems of Verlaine, it is a work of romantic atmosphere, delicately conveyed by the dancing. The ballet is a work of romantic atmosphere, delicately conveyed by the dancing. The ballet is a work of romantic atmosphere, delicately conveyed by the dancing.

She dances two love duets with Prokofiev's, the first quiet and simple, the second more impassioned, with a meltingly graceful grace on the second. The whole framed in a carnival scene bringing on three other pairs of dancers. The fluency of the invention and its aptness to the wistfully pretty music and to the special gifts of its performers help to overcome the fact that, although self-sufficient, the piece looks insubstantial out of its original context.

The music seemed to drag slightly; a marginally brighter attack by the on-stage singer, but having this female role, Hilary Bell, might have brought out more strongly the contrast of affectionate sentiments amid a jostling crowd. I would have been happier, too, with a lighter, purer voice although the sing-

ing was both accurate and understanding.

There are to be three performances this week, but the last is announced for the following week. Simply to leave the audience with a sense of longing for a wider public, it is worth while but I hope to see other dancers in the role and, preferably, the rest of the ballet.

In this week's programme, it is given in double bill with another short work, *The Mists*, as the centrepiece of a mixed bill. Herbert Ross's ballet, the addition of the Genet play was a revival of a previous season's absence, and the new cast proves sadly unbalanced.

Following Genet's preference, the maids are played by men. Desmond Kelly, like his predecessor, is a fine dancer, but his playing Solange in a complete masculine way, but Kim Redder gives Claire a convincing manner that makes the role look androgynous. That introduces a misleading sexual relationship into the action, completely destroys the balance of strength underlying the games of submission and dominance.

Vivyan Lorraine gives their mistress a voluptuous allure, but having this female role, Hilary Bell, might have brought out more strongly the contrast of affectionate sentiments amid a jostling crowd. I would have been happier, too, with a lighter, purer voice although the sing-

LPO/Haitink

Festival Hall

Joan Chissell

An introductory note to Tuesday's concert reminded us that Bernard Haitink had conducted the LPO in nearly a hundred performances of 30 works by British composers. To celebrate his tenth anniversary, he is adding Elgar's two symphonies to the list, and on Tuesday gave his first performance of No 1 in A flat.

Like several others in recent years, English as well as foreign, Mr Haitink helped to dispel the legend of the composer as a complacent Edwardian not without distinction in world war. This was an Elgar as disturbed as Mahler, winning through only after bitter struggle.

In the first two movements it was notably the brass that highlighted the state of protest, often harshly in the second, which was strongly accented and urgent, perhaps even too hard-driven for the gentle secondary theme to suggest an English

river. In place of Anglo-Saxon reticence, there was a Mahlerian fervour. Nor was there a trace of pomposity in Mr Haitink's highly charged and throbbing grandiose victory at the end.

Elgar's fourth piano concerto, on the other hand, emphasized only the world's spiritual refinement and grace after the drama of the first. The music is delicate and transparent, in fact with a touch as light as brings to Mozart, except for a few moments such as the first movement's fortissimo explosion and the climax of the cadenza.

Tension was never stretched to breaking point in either the first movement or the second. In the first movement the British conductor's sense of the music's delicacy and transparency, in fact with a touch as light as brings to Mozart, except for a few moments such as the first movement's fortissimo explosion and the climax of the cadenza.

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Tony Doyle and Susan Fleetwood

Photograph by Donald Cooper

Too lonely a group of characters

The Plough and the Stars

Oliver

Irving Wardle

Sean O'Casey has always been unfair game for reviewers. His plays abound in the kind of petty faults on which we delight to swoop. They also rise to a pitch of emotional generosity and comic wisdom which we can rarely find words to describe.

You might suppose that a revival of his pacifist masterpiece at this particular moment, with renewed nationalist fury arising in Dublin, would at least get the play in proper proportion. But this reviewer emerged from Bill Bryden's production with little more than a catalogue of nit-picking objections.

The Plough and the Stars recounts the Easter Rising through the experiences of one group of tenement dwellers, representing every shade of opinion from international socialism to rampant nationalism. O'Casey is not yet a polemicist. As in *Juno*, his message is: "You lost your best principle,

me boy, when you lost your arm" and he shows the torrent of republican rhetoric first inflaming his character and then plunging them into the actualities of bloodshed. Doyle, the Irish Citizen Army commandant, perishes and his wife goes mad; other innocent bystanders are killed. Meanwhile the traditional survivors of British dominion get through the day again, playing cards, snubbing the British troops, and looting with conspicuous valour.

Like *Juno*, the play swings between the doomed heroics and comic compromise, and what binds the two elements together is the public nature of the action. Without that, all the passion and pathos is apt to come over simply as bad writing. That is what happens here.

Perhaps the Olivier stage may, in part, be to blame, but not since Mr Bryden's production of *Il Campiello* have I seen such a lonely group of characters. In the supposedly sure-fire second act in the pub, the sound of Patrick Pearse's speech out in the street is unaccompanied by any sense of a crowd. Geoffrey Scott's bar, a large reconstruction of smothered plaster and dingy furnishings, stretches the full width of the revolve, a quiet sally of underpopulated place where all events seem to take

place in the middle-distance. As for poor Susan Fleetwood (who deserves a rest from unplayably pathetic roles) without some suggestion that her grief is shared by other patriots' wives, her withering despair and final descent into madness is almost impossible to watch.

In some ways, even so, the production is extremely careful. In the first act you can watch the broken lines of action, such as Fluther's pride in repairing the front door or old Peter's wrathful preparation for appearing in his ludicrous Forester's uniform, holding all the characters simultaneously in sharp focus. Over the longer span, Carmel McHerry and a tank-like Anna Mahan beautifully erode the Grosvenor-Bessie relationship from open warfare to respectful alliance.

The virtue of the show lies in its articulation of small details. The cast, drawn mainly from the Irish stage, is led by Cyril Cusack's dapper, jaunty Fluther, whose relaxation and unemphatic fluency sets the tone for J. G. Davlin, Tony Doyle, and the rest. Their authenticity is not in question; what is lacking is any fresh relish for those who do not already know the text inside out.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

Jean Rodolphe Kars/Udo Reinemann

Wigmore Hall

Max Harrison

Tuesday's Wigmore Hall concert, the second in the Liszt Festival being put on by BBC Radio 3, was a most successful one, and it is to be hoped that some of the many other interesting programmes to be heard in this series during the coming month will do better. Those who stayed away from Tuesday missed some other things, some piano playing of great poetic refinement by Jean Rodolphe Kars, particularly in the long meditation of *La Vallée d'Obermann*.

That is an early instance of Liszt's exploratory vein, an aspect of his music that was at its most remarkable in his final years. By that time he was producing works like the *Églogue sans tonalité*, a glittering yet strange insubstantial piece as played by Mr Kars.

Still more remote is *Nuages gris*, a phantom that briefly materializes and then fades.

Dean Martin and Bing Crosby for gala

Dean Martin, Bing Crosby and Pam Ayres are to join the many other stars taking part in the Silver Jubilee royal variety performance to be presented by Lord Delfont and Lord Grade at the London Palladium, on November 21.

This charity performance at

Finerolles is a middle-pointed festival, also to the aid of the Liszt Festival, a special fund in Liszt's settings of Petrarch's Sonnets with their damasked keyboard parts. On these lucky, we heard the original, seasons 1973 version, which perfectly matches music to text.

Mr Reinemann's performance was entirely sympathetic, yet without a fully defined character. Largely because his voice lacked sustaining power in the middle range. There were some fine notes here and there, but they were not enough to make up for the lack of a sustained tone in the third movement.

Further songs included Liszt's *Églogue sans tonalité*, a glittering yet strange insubstantial piece as played by Mr Kars.

Still more remote is *Nuages gris*, a phantom that briefly materializes and then fades.

which the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be present and for which all the stars are giving their services without fee, it is hoped, will be followed by the Entertainment Arts Benevolent Fund, the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal Fund, and other charitable organizations.

Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

One of the more over-worked adjectives in fashion recently has been "ethnic". Ethnic can mean anything from a peasant blouse, a Mao quilted jacket, a gypsy flounce, or a smelly Afghan sheepskin, to a Mexican poncho, a Moroccan cape, a bit of Bailei or tie-and-dye, or your actual djellabah. It has indeed been a word of great value to anyone trying to report fashion in the past five years. For the ethnic look hit us from two quite disparate sources and was married into the mass market. On the one hand, we began to note an increasing number of collec-

tions in Paris which were undoubtedly inspired by the designer's last trip abroad. Or, for less wealthy Houses, at any rate, the last alien movie epic he had chipped in his francs to see. Dr Zhivago coats, Cossack hats, the sartorial charms of Marrakesh, the Steppes, the Himalayas, the Rockies, you name it, they had been there.

At precisely the same time that the couture was staggering into an appropriate look, a whole lot of persons who totally disregarded fashion and its whims were adopting ethnic dress for their own reasons. To

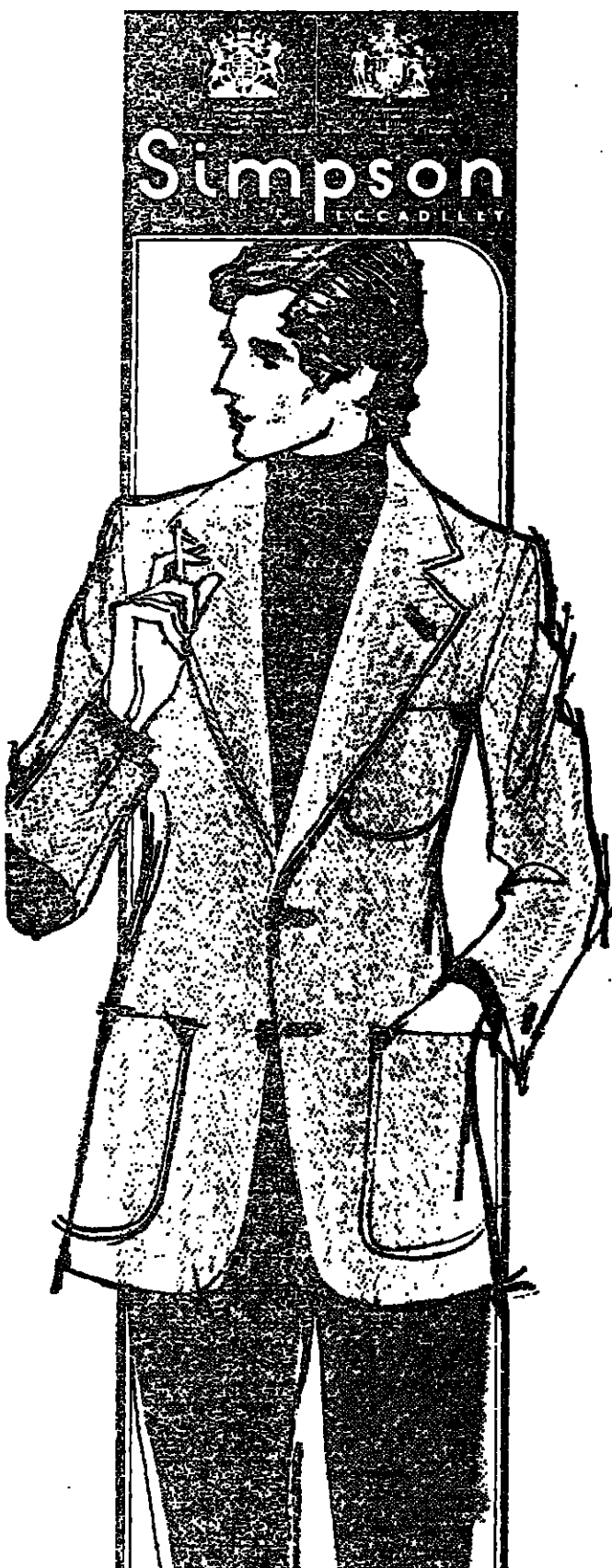
some, the garments, rough, strange and frequently impractical, signified the memories of journeys taken, hazards encountered.

But the most interesting aspect of ethnic dress is that its appeal seems to be so attached to special areas. Are they areas where a country formerly had some power, or are they the exact opposite? Is ethnic dress only charming to those with a distance to lead enchantment? For example, could you sell Mexican/South American Puerto Rican style in New York? Do the British make anything less than a mess of that ravishing length of tissue, the sari? Are the Nordic countries entranced by the shaggy piles of other equally chilly regions? Or are the Swedes mad for off-the-shoulder batiste blouses in which to catch one's death of cold.

In any case, how much does local style influence women, or men? Now that the great state-ments of fashion are flouted and what you wear is a free-for-all, just how far does the two-way effect go? We asked Edward Bell to look at several well-established groups in Britain and to illustrate the melange of style which has resulted.



Dancing Krishna followers. In India, footwork is unnecessary, in Kilburn they sport a variety.



Camelhair

Camel is the one fashion classic that's never lost its magic. It stars in a stunning revival at Simpson. DAKS pure camelhair herringbone jacket with suede elbow patches and pocket detail. £149.00. DAKS trousers and camelhair polo-neck from a selection.

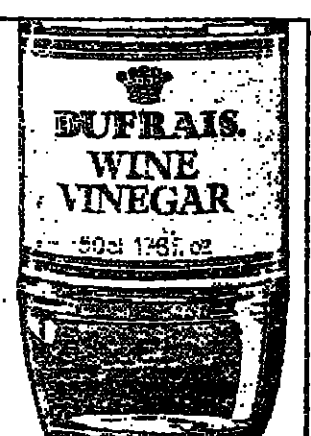
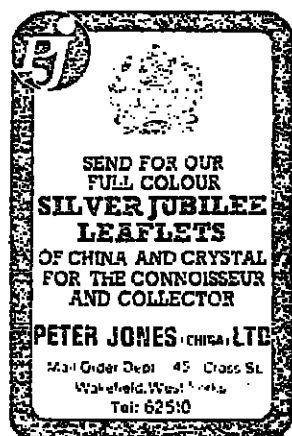
SHOP AT HOME AND HELP SAVE WILDLIFE

The new World Wildlife Fund Gift Catalogue is full of beautiful things for the home, the family, for birthday and Christmas gifts. It's such a good idea to 'shop at home' from this wide selection of gifts because you help the world's threatened wildlife at the same time.

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An Arab woman in Earls Court wears a gold mask, black shawl, blue anorak and red skirt with white spots.



A Kenyan visitor to Britain. Her hair, bound with black manilla string, was dressed in Kenya.



A Londoner who goes to jingles for her topiary hairdo.



A retired tin miner from Arizona wears his Sunday best on holiday in London.



A Sikh ticket collector at Liverpool Street Station. His turban matches British Rail uniform.



A resident of Bow, London, formerly of Delhi. She wears orange traditional dress with a mauve check coat, red shoes, a nose stud and many bracelets.



A rastarian from London's East End whose dreadlocks shape the woolly hat of rasta colours, red, green and yellow.



A lieutenant at the United States Air Force base, Upper Heyford.

SPORT

Tennis

'Workshop' will be hub of winter training

By Rex Bellamy

Tennis Correspondent

The training headquarters for Britain's leading tennis players and the best of the aspiring youngsters has been shifted from Queen's Club, West Kensington, to the historic Bisham Abbey, on the banks of the Thames just outside Marlow. The completion of a new "sports workshop" complex, which took three years to build and cost £2,500,000, has given Paul Hutchins, the national team manager, most of the facilities he needs for intensive training and practice in an exclusive environment. The single reservation is that, for clay court practice, he will still need the outdoor courts at Queen's Club and the indoor courts at Wimbledon and may occasionally give trainees a trip to Andres Gimeno's club in Barcelona.

Mark Cox and nine other ranked players were among those hard at work yesterday on Bisham Abbey's four indoor courts. These were taped on to a multi-purpose green carpet which has been extended to the club's entrance doorways, so that men and women in a variety of sports can dash about without inhibitions, confident that an impact with the containing structure will be adequately cushioned. There are also five floodlit hard courts outdoors. Only a loose-top surface is missing.

Cox said that if Britain was to compete with the rest of the world, particularly the United States, then the whole set-up has to be upgraded. Hutchins is using Bisham Abbey as the hub of his winter training programme. He said it was difficult to train at Queen's Club because the wooden indoor courts were worn and there were too many distractions, and the facilities were not available at

weekends. It was much easier to motivate players at Bisham where the day's programme included pre-breakfast jogging and exercise by the river, followed by a series of training and practice drills and, finally, the usually relaxing diversion of a four-ball.

Hutchins said that he and his team of helpers would concentrate more than before on "basic fitness". An intensive development in the assistance of the former international player, Bev Risman, senior lecturer in physical education and sport at Loughborough College, is "exercise physiology" and his function with the tennis trainees will be to organize general and individual training programmes. Risman will thus be exploring two areas in which British tennis has compared unfavourably with many other nations. One recognizes that physical training (as distinct from practical sports) is the missing link in the differing stresses of differing sports. The other recognizes that individual conditions vary and that physical training schedules must therefore be adapted to individual needs.

The Central Council of Physical Recreation rented Bisham Abbey in 1947 and bought it in 1963. The main purposes of the centre are to house with governing bodies, training and qualifying coaches and in improving the performance of selected groups of sports men and sportswomen. The new "workshop" complex, which can be adapted to a variety of sports marks a huge stride towards the fulfilment of those purposes. It is also, thank goodness, far more cosy and congenial in its structure and appointments than it might have been had the designer sought nothing more than functional efficiency.

Nastase is bewildered by double-strung racket

Paris, Sept. 21.—The "double-

strung" wonder racket, used by French players Georges Goven and Christophe Roger-Vasselin, is causing havoc at the Poree Cup tournament here. Roger-Vasselin beat the experienced Zalko Franulovic of Yugoslavia with the wonder racket yesterday, and today Goven used it to bewilder Romania's Ilie Nastase to a shock 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 defeat.

Nastase had been one of the favourites to win the Poree Cup, which counts towards the international tennis grand prix. After the match he said: "This is the first time in my career I've come up against a player with a racket like Goven's—and it will be the

last. In future I will refuse to play anybody using a gadget like that."

Goven, who has lately been in below his best form, adapted to the racket quickly to the qualities of the racket which he said gave him extra lift to the ball and twice the speed. He constantly surprised Nastase, who was visibly tired at the end of the match, kept him running at full speed from one side of the court to the other. Australia's Dick Crealy also used one of these rackets to beat Patrick Dominguez of France 6-2, 6-4, and the Frenchman later said he was going to ask the French Tennis Federation to ban them.—Agence France-Press

Rowing

Selectors cannot coach under new ARA rule

By Jim Railton

A potentially embarrassing situation has now been removed by a new rule approved by the Amateur Rowing Association (ARA) council at its quarterly meeting this week. The rule simply spells out that "during their period of office members of the selection board should not coach crews seeking selection within the areas of responsibility of the board".

To my knowledge, four selectors have been actively involved in coaching crews seeking selection for British teams in the past two seasons. Christopher Blackwell coached the coxed pair, Christie and McLeod, in the 1976 Olympic regatta. Blackwell, however, resigned as a selector when the selectors nominated him men's national squad coordinator and coach.

During the present season, the selector, Ron Needs, coached the lightweight British eight, who won the gold medal in the world championships in Amsterdam last month; selector Graham Hall was connected with an unsuccessful lightweight four and selector Michael Spracklen coached Salles and Hunt to their gold medal win in double sculls in last month's world championships.

On the face of it, the selectors have quite an impressive record as coaches in producing two gold medals in this year's world championships. But as a matter of principle selectors should not coach athletes seeking international selection. Clearly there could be occasions when interests clashed and objective

assessment become difficult or somewhat clouded. In short, the ARA council has foreseen difficulties that could be ahead as selectors pursue their elected role of simply select.

The ARA council will be making the British selection board more efficient rather than clipping their wings by setting up a sub-committee of the executive committee. The new committee will have the task of coordinating and administering all ARA national training teams and selected teams. The sub-committee will be responsible for the allocation of resources, particularly coaches, thereby relieving selectors of much of the administrative burden which they have to carry in the past.

The chairman of this new sub-committee is William Clarke, as the ARA council could not have found a more suitable man for the task. Mr Clarke is a highly efficient administrator and logistics man behind British international teams for some years now. Mr Clarke already has been in charge of the British team at the world championships, taking place in New Zealand in November and the possibility of a British team competing in the world championships having to spend at least five weeks there.

For the first time apart from members of the ARA council who have contributed to newspaper council proceedings in future will be open to accredited rowing sports journalists. This should provide an opportunity for depth reporting of important decisions made by the ARA council.

Hockey

Four from Rome to take road to Buenos Aires

Rome, Sept. 21.—Twelve

countries from four continents will be trying for four places in next year's World Cup hockey tournament. The first later-Continental Cup starts here tomorrow. The event is the first world wide tournament for second-ranked nations, who will compete in two pools of six. The top two in each group will, in addition to qualifying for the World Cup in Buenos Aires (March 19 to April 1), go through to the semi-finals round of the event here.

In group A are Canada, France, Ghana, Kenya, Poland and the Soviet Union. Group B is made up of Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico and Nigeria.

Group A appears to be the stronger one with Poland, Kenya, Canada and the Soviet Union all hoping to reach the last four. The Soviet Union may cause the biggest surprise. They disappeared from international competition after a moderate first appearance in the 1970 European Cup, but have re-emerged lately to achieve some good results in national and club competitions. They recently had a 2-0 victory over Belgium, the original Continental Cup favourites, in a European Cup qualifying match.

Poland have a strong, experienced side who recently led the powerful West Germans 2-0 before losing 4-2. Their latest match may be their first one against Kenya, who have a strong Asian element in their side. Belgium and Ireland ought to qualify from group B. Though Japan have prepared thoroughly and are now employing European tactics, home advantage may also prove helpful to Italy.

Yachting

The last race could go to Hobday

By John Nicholls

There was no racing for competitors in the Soling class national championship at Bournemouth yesterday. The programme includes a lay day in case any of the earlier races had to be postponed and as this has been necessary yesterday was spare. The sixth and seventh races of the series will be held today and tomorrow.

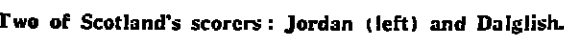
If conditions for these last races are anything like those of the previous five, the winner of them is unlikely to be anyone other than Philip Hobday. He has been unbeaten in the previous five races and has a lead of four points over the second-placed Peter Croft. Only three of them scored points yesterday; in the other Hobday was disqualified.

He only needs one more good result to be certain of winning the championship and if he does that he will have a record of five wins in a row. That someone could win the championship in the Soling class is a surprise. Hobday has been placed second in four of the races held so far. Only three of them scored points yesterday; in the other Hobday was disqualified.

OVERALL PLACEMENTS after five races: 1. Peter Croft (2 points), 2. Philip Hobday (4 points), 3. Peter Croft (2 points), 4. Peter Croft (2 points), 5. Peter Croft (2 points), 6. Peter Croft (2 points), 7. Peter Croft (2 points), 8. Peter Croft (2 points), 9. Peter Croft (2 points), 10. Peter Croft (2 points).

هكذا من الاله

Football



By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

the Scots, for all of their pressure found themselves with chances.

Until then the Czechs had thrived on the defensive, but now the Scots, but McGrain, particularly met them with typically accurate passes, and the Czechs, as a defender, here playing on the left side, started many of Scotland's best attacks, moving rapidly from the half to the goal.

Neither he, nor any of the Scots' defenders, were caught out by the Czechs.

In these first 15 minutes, Masson, at one end and Dobias, at the other, the group through a rehearsal, Masson's attack was well ahead on the ground by Michalik and a similar fierce but accurate attack, the Czechs were close to the Scottish bar. If anything the Czechs, at this stage, were the more accurate in several instances, but the Scots were more powerful, constantly supporting each other and giving the character of the match.

The Czech defence, always susceptible to a ball floated high into the air, was not helped by a goal after 20 minutes when Johnston's corner left them watching as forward Dobias, who had been in the wide towards the far post. A thumping header settled squarely in the back of the net.

After 25 minutes, the Czechs became an impressive unit. They met the Czech breakaways more positively, and the Scots' defence was not so much in fair reliction of their achievements when, after 35 minutes, they took a second goal, this time by Dobias.

No doubt that the referee would let them have their prize. Johnston's centre again caused confusion, and the Scots' defence was not so much in fair reliction of their achievements when, after 35 minutes, they took a second goal, this time by Dobias.

Michalik went to meet the cross, but was not helped by one of his own colleagues who obstructed him, and the Czechs, who were as quick and as bodies collided, the

N Ireland 2 **Iceland 0**
Northern Ireland finally drew

George Best, making a modest appearance after seven years' absence from the Belfast, agreed to talk with neither coach nor anything at stake, Iceland should have come forward. You just can't override a commitment with that type of football. It was a disgrace," he said. Iceland's manager Tony Knapp disagreed. "Ireland is the only team to attack a team like Northern Ireland, particularly when you are under strength. It would be a disgrace if they didn't." Northern Ireland's first goal came from their seventeenth corner. When McIlroy floated the ball into the centre, Best backed up to take it. Iceland's goalkeeper Dagsson listed it out for McGrath.

One unruly football spectator has cost Manchester City £10,000.

Wrexham sign striker for record fee

Dieke McNeil, one of football's leading goalcorers, joined Wrexham for £50,000 from Hereford. The 27-year-old has a record fee for both clubs and McNeil makes his first appearance at home to Swindon on Saturday.

Wrexham manager Arfon Griffiths, the former Welsh midfield player, then attempted to do a double deal by signing the goalkeeper, Dai Dardas, who was refused entry into Kuwait on Tuesday because he had an Israeli stamp on his passport.

Davies, also wanted by Chester at a give-away fee of £10,000, spoke to Mr Griffiths before accompanying Davies to the club. Everton manager Gordon Lee gave me permission to talk to the player but nothing was finalised," he said.

Davies has been looking for a move since Everton signed George Wood from Blackpool for £140,000 summer.

McNeil's departure from struggling Hereford will help ease a cash crisis at the former Southern League club. Mr Griffiths has been looking for a striker since selling Billy Ashcroft.

Dixie McNeil, one of football's leading goalscorers, joined Wrex-

Yesterday's results

Potland (10) 2 **Denmark** (0) 1
Mastercl **L** **Nyaard** (10) 1
Dyna **S**
Schmark

Group four
McGraith (10) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Seven
Scotland (2) 3 **Czechoslovakia** (0) 1
Jordan **L** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Jordan 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Jordan 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Jordan 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Jordan 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Jordan 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Jordan 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Jordan 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Jordan 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Jordan 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Jordan 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Eight
Scotland (1) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Nine
Scotland (1) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Ten
Scotland (1) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Eleven
Scotland (1) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Twelve
Scotland (1) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Thirteen
Scotland (1) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Fourteen
Scotland (1) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Fifteen
Scotland (1) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Sixteen
Scotland (1) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 8 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 9 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 10 0 0 0 1 1 3

Group Seventeen
Scotland (1) 2 **15,000** (0) 0
Belgium **P** **W** **D** **L** **F** **A** **Pts**
Belgium 1 2 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 3 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 4 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 5 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 6 0 0 0 1 1 3
Belgium 7 0 0 0 1 1

Poland	(2, 4)	Denmark	10, 7
Maztaier		Nygaard	(pen)

[illegible]

Denis Howell, the Minister for Sport, has written defending the match.

Manchester United, who were banned from the European Cup Winners' Cup by UEFA on Monday. In a letter to Hans-Joachim Watzel, UEFA's secretary, Howell claims that Manchester United's arrangements for the match were "beyond reproach". None of the 41,000 spectators, because of the "beyond reproach" arrangements with the official supporters' organisations, were "in any danger".

"I have made extensive enquiries since the match and I am satisfied that the proposed arrangements made by Manchester United for the sale of tickets and the seating of the official supporters were beyond reproach," Howell writes.

Officials have interviewed 100 people detained by the police in Lyons and there were members of the official party.

Each had made private travel arrangements and intended to buy match tickets at the stadium itself. They were not among the 100 people detained by the police.

"It is clear to me that there was no attempt at segregating supporters of the two teams at the match. I am alarmed to hear that there were 41,000 spectators, although the stadium's seating capacity of only 38,000 and the circumstances of the match are obvious to anyone."

"Of course, none of this would have been possible without the undisciplined British supporters, but the official supporters appear to have been particularly well behaved on this occasion."

It does seem to me that UEFA's failure to take account of the regulations in this instance may have not accepted any responsibility for the problems which have not been conducted an adequate inquiry into the reasons prevailing on the ground."

In spite of Mr Howell's reference to the attendance as a record, the official figures released were 33,678.

Manchester United's assistant manager, Brian Clough, Mercury flew to Bern last night.



By Richard Streeton

A great deal of water in all respects has flowed under the bridges over the St. Lawrence river since the 14th of July, mostly and controversial 1976 Olympic Games here. The impression I received by a visiting Englishman was that the present situation was far more aroused beforehand among the local citizenry seems to have deteriorated in terms of controversial interests. The subject is almost a backwater.

Certainly, the casual inquirer, trying to gauge public feeling on the subject, might find the Olympic facilities cannot immediately find many who now regret that this city staged the Games. Even among taxi drivers, the source of appropriate quotes, as revealed by travelling journalists,

Obviously political capital continues to be available from the municipal government. The country club cases and investigations were committed to the public and crucial decisions have yet to be made. The city is still in the process of demolishing the old stadium and the still empty Olympic village. Despite the financial overhangs incurred, though, a large number of people are enjoying the regular usage of the actual sports facilities provided for the Games. The main athletics stadium is used for football, basketball, tennis, judo, and volleyball. The firemen, a Finn, says their indelible mark on track and field history, is now the home of the Montreal Junior Canadiens hockey team. The Montreal Alouettes Canadian football side. The crowds of 70,000 and 88,000 respectively they attracted were the largest ever to get at their previous stadiums. Some 70,000 were drawn there to see the concert last night at the rock venue. All told there were 15 major events held in the stadium in the first 12 months of the games.

A far larger number would be possible, of course, if the provincial government when the issue of the stadium was first raised, had completed the supporting tower and retractable roof design the additional \$500m (\$26.7m) cost to complete the stadium. The roofed \$800m (\$42.7m). Without the tower the stadium can only be used for football and baseball. The paving has it that the tower and roof will be completed. At the moment that solitary crane, like the one at the site of the Olympic village, remains, perched on the still unfinished tower and the roof remains stalled at its manufacturing stage in France.

Montreal is desperately anxious to stage the 1976 World Athletics Championships. The city government goes that: it is the North American Continent's turn with the World Championships. The city of Montreal is anxious to use the 1982 event as a rehearsal for their anticipated hosting of the 1994 Winter Olympics. The city has no means out of the question that

Canada will apply to hold the 1986 World Football World Cup at Montreal's stadium the main venue.

If this should come as a surprise to some people, let it be noted that Canada is developing what schools leave here. The appetite for the game are being whetted by the fairly respectable chance Canada have of reaching the final of the World Cup in Argentina next summer as winners of a notoriously weak North American group. A soccer international with Canada against Argentina last month is eagerly awaited. One sports official told me that Canada would even be willing to deputize for Venezuela if any eleventh hour problem arose.

The swimming pool where David Wilkie, along with a mass of East Germans and Americans, brought

[illegible]

Tokyo, Sept 21.—Adrian Paulen, president of the International

Asian Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) agreement would be reached by October next year on China's readiness to join the sporting body.

Mr. Paulsen said in Tokyo after a three-day visit to Peking that he had "fruitful discussions" with Chinese Sports Minister Wang Meng. He said China had "reassured" that there was only one expelled from the IAAF before it expelled it, and that they are right in claiming there are no athletes in China." Mr. Paulsen said, "The IAAF will call a congress world to decide whether to admit China and expelled athletes." He said that the conclusion will be reached by October next year."

Mr. Paulsen, who leaves for Edinburgh tomorrow, is expected to attend the meetings of the Asian Amateur Athletic Federation in Peking. He said he would also discuss the Chinese attitude on Asian attitudes on the Chinese issue. He said he would also discuss the Chinese attitude on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president, Lord Killanin, who visited Peking last week.

Reuter.

Stuttgart, Sept. 21.—East European weightlifters have had a dis-

appointing "start" as the world championships here, winning only two gold medals in the first four categories, when at least three and possibly four were expected.

Tomorrow's light-heavyweight event should bring them an improvement as the most fancied contenders include a Russian and the Bulgarian.

RESULTS: Middleweight (smash): 1. Y. Vardanian (Soviet Union), 162.5 kg; 2. A. V. Kharin (Soviet Union), 160 kg; 3. A. S. Stark (Hungary), 160 kg; 4. N. M. Kharin (Soviet Union), 157.5 kg; 5. M. Zikarov (Bulgaria), 147.5 kg; 6. D. Milos (Cuba), 145 kg.

Don't raise the roof

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will be interesting to see if the Olympics are an important issue in the next mayoral election which is due in November, 1978 Mayor Drapreau, if the local drum major has said, is interpreted by a visitor, might yet move on to wider spheres. He admitted he would not decide whether to stand for office until about three months before the election.

Rugby Union

By Peter West

[illegible]

Cycling

The Australians, Don Allan and Danny Clark, opened up the first

Madison Chase of the final night of the Skol six-day cycle race at Wembley and set the scene for Allan and Clark were one lap up on the overnight leaders, Sercu and Pijnen, after the first chase of the evening. That left the Australians second on the ladder to the Belgium-Dutch partnership but equal on laps.

The Germans, Peiffer and Fritz, also caught up Sercu and Pijnen. The Dutch duo had been leading, who looked fast and strong even after five days hard racing.

Their attack sprang late in the third lap as they overtook the overnight leaders had to chase hard to prevent them running away.

Leaders: Peiffer, P. Pijnen, D. Sercu, Fritz, A. Clark, J. Allan, G. Peiffer, T. D. D. Allan, S. Peiffer, A. Fritz, West Germany, Holland, West Germany, Holland, West Germany, 70kts, at 5

Cricket

Greg Chappell, captain of the defeated touring Australian cricket

beam, flew home yesterday and today, said English. English's supporters may have seen the last of him as a player. His signing for the club was a disaster. It means a ban of at least two years from cricket.

English, 32, left Heathrow Airport, London, with his wife, Judy, he said. "I would like to think that I will play cricket in the future," he said. "I don't know. I certainly won't be able to play for the next two years, and afterwards, I don't know. I will have to see. I hope to continue playing in the Australian club circuit for four years, but I don't know. I don't know. I'm not in any hurry to tour again."

Chappell and his wife have been staying with friends in Devon and Chappell said: "It's only the second time Judy has been away from me. The last time we've had a chance to go sightseeing. It was nice to have her back. I don't know if I'll tour again, probably in November."

Andretti signs

Mario Andretti has signed to lead the John Player-Lotus team in the 1978 Formula One championship. It will be his third season with the team.

Title defence

Milan, Sept. 21.—Rodrigo Valdes, of Colombia, will defend his World Boxing Council middleweight title against Bennie Briscoe, of Philadelphia, in the Italian town of Campione, on November 5.

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Ronald Butt

Referendum in a crisis: it could look like government weakness

Mrs Thatcher's instinct that a Conservative government should rely on the people if challenged by the trade unions is, of course, a healthy one. So was Mr Heath's similar instinct when he put the trade union crisis to the test of a general election in 1974, and I do not think that Mrs Thatcher would deny this, whatever she may feel about the policy for which the 1974 election was fought or the way in which the campaign was handled.

Undoubtedly, the sorest problem of contemporary democracy is how the legitimate wishes of the people should be channelled into political action. A general election in the heat of a political and economic crisis was clearly shown in 1974 to be the wrong way, and not simply because it produced the "wrong" answer, for the Prime Minister who called it. That election, as almost anyone would be bound to admit, was also an inadequate vehicle for popular opinion because it produced an ambiguous result and a non-answer. The question is now whether a referendum, which Mrs Thatcher has suggested she might prefer, would be any better.

The classic objections to referenda are well known, and they are not as strong as many politicians claim to think. First, how can there be any confidence that the people are actually voting on the question put to them and not on their general opinion of government that puts it? That is easily answered.

People are at least more

likely to vote on the precise question in a referendum than they are in an election, and if some of them do not: so be it. Their opinion about (say) the record of the government has its relevance too.

Secondly, there is the objection that referenda, or more accurately, plebiscites, have been extensively used by authoritarian regimes wishing to reinforce their authority by a device which is not a true test of popular opinion.

And, of course, it is true that, faced with the dictator's question: "Do you support ME, or don't you?" in a plebiscite, the overwhelming majority of the people will tend to vote for the existing state of things rather than for the unstated and the unknown, which could mean disorder and chaos.

But, of course, these are not the circumstances in which a referendum on some legitimate question of policy would be held in Britain. They are not the circumstances in which the referendum on EEC membership was held, or in which the referendum likely to be necessary for any progress with devolution will be held.

Yet, even with the use of such respectable referenda as an escape-route for settling questions that seem otherwise intractable, there is often an element of "vote for me—or for the dangerously unknown" which I believe distorts the meaning of the results.

Anyone who thinks that the outcome of the EEC referen-

dum was a sign of positive support for joining (as distinct from staying, having joined) deceives himself by ignoring the extent to which people were obliged to vote either for the devil they knew (the fait accompli of membership) or the devil they didn't (going out into the cold).

Such are limitations to the efficacy of even the most "respectable" referenda, particularly on complex questions whose consequences are exceptionally hard for the ordinary citizen to calculate.

On the other hand, to the extent that they may act as a test for a certain sort of proposals which cannot be otherwise put to popular opinion, but which ought to be tested, they may be no bad idea, and in Switzerland there is a sound history of referenda.

Particularly where there are specific constitutional proposals referenda may work quite well. For instance, I can see the point of putting to the people a specific plan to reform the House of Lords, and I find it hard to believe that we could move to devolution without a test of opinion by referendum.

There is also much to be said for referenda to test the popular will on the sort of question which political parties deliberately choose never to espouse, therefore denying a real say to the public who generally have to choose between the political parties on other grounds.

The same applies to the social and conscience questions which cannot be settled along

party lines, and which are too often determined by officials, pressure groups and a minority of interested politicians paying little if any regard to public opinion.

It certainly seems right that rational consideration should be given to the referendum as a means of measuring public opinion at a time when there are so many misgivings about the ability of governments to represent public opinion on other than a limited range of questions.

The gravest objection is that such referenda would undermine the House of Commons. Yet a select committee has just proclaimed that civil servants (who have a decisive part in determining these other questions) are not responsive enough to political impulses. And there is much truth in this.

Where Parliament's ability to represent the electorate adequately on such subjects has been by-passed a referendum could hardly diminish an authority which the House of Commons has already virtually lost.

Yet when it comes to the kind of circumstances in which Mrs Thatcher now seems to envisage a referendum other considerations arise. The most obvious was picked up by union leaders. What happens to the crisis while the referendum is being arranged (assuming, that is, the government has a sufficient majority to get it through Parliament quickly)?

Mrs Thatcher sensibly hedged about her idea very carefully;

it is not one that has come in this form before the shadow cabinet yet. And there may be ways in which a referendum could be applied to some of the basic union problems.

The closed shop might be just the sort of question which Mrs Thatcher could put to the people in a referendum, provided she said in her election campaign that she would do it, and held the referendum quickly. Why should popular opinion not be tested on a set of specific proposals to deal with this?

Yet this does not seem to be what Mrs Thatcher is thinking about. What is in her mind is that a referendum should be used in a crisis in which a union challenged the Government. (This was elicited by facing her with a have-you-stopped-beating-your-wife article in a Tory newspaper, to which she responded by saying that it was not necessary for her to respond.)

The implication of her remark seems to be that the government should then ask the electorate whether they are prepared to pay the higher price for coal, because the government certainly would not subsidize it. Well, that is a very reasonable question, but it is one that a government ought to ask when it is under challenge?

I think not. The objection is not on constitutional grounds but in the interests of strong government. Effective government depends on confidence, and that includes the self-con-

Are the public really to pay the price of big government?

Government is three times as big as it must be. Only a third of government services must be financed by taxes

The malaise of the British economy and British society derives ultimately from the dominance of government, national, regional and local.

Big government requires large bureaucracies, high taxation, concentration of scope for non-governmental initiatives in business, community and family lives. It has thereby diminished acceptance of law, induced tax evasion in all social groups, encouraged cynicism of politicians. Big government has contributed to inflation by becoming the large-scale employer of labour whose wage demands can be seen to be met by the simple expedient of printing paper money.

Big government has made the British economy inefficient by removing or weakening competition in fuel and transport, education and medical care and a wide range of local authority services.

Big government is some three times as big as it must be. Only a third, perhaps, rather more, probably less, of British government services may be financed by taxes because they are what economists call "public goods" that cannot be refused to people who refuse to pay: external defence, services, all (or most) of defence, some (not all) internal law and order, some "public" health services, some fire services, probably some research (military, medical, etc.), some roads, some education (costs, etc.) protection, probably artistic and architectural preservations.

The rest could substantially be supplied to individuals in the markets (almost), all education, most health services, all housing, some post and air services, some roads, all car-parking, refuse collection, employment information, transport and fuel, water, seaside beaches and amenities, "public" libraries, "public" lavatories, and much more.

The present bigness of British government does not reflect public opinion. There is no machinery for reflecting public opinion on "public" services. The ballot box does not enable individuals to indicate preferences in the kind or scale of each "public" (government-supplied) service.

No British elector has ever voted (separately) for the National Health Service, state education, council housing, "public" libraries, "public" beaches, public services (and other) public services (and not be entangled in the other 32, 57 or 116 policies offered by the parties.

Public opinion, if it could indicate its preferences, would prefer less government, smaller bureaucracies, lower taxes, much smaller "social wages", more choice in education and health services and in housing, more competition in fuel and transport, less "public" expenditure on local authority libraries, swimming pools, more say in everything and less paternalism from officialdom.

In charge, published today, I argue that the only effective way to bring about these reforms is to replace taxes by prices for "public" services wherever possible.

Charging would increase revenue for the public services that individuals wish to remain supplied by government. Charging would in time transfer to the market services the public fund could be provided more directly by competing private suppliers.

Charging would, by thus creating or stimulating competition, increase the efficiency of all "public" services supplied by government or in the market. Charging would lower taxes and thus increase incentives to produce, invest and take risks.

Charging would restore the link between payment made and service received that "free" services have destroyed.

troys. It would thus increase the total expenditure, public and private, for service provided by the public, notably education, medical care, housing and pensions.

Charging would enable "cuts" in government expenditure, when and where desirable, to be made with the least possible inconvenience to those who know their family circumstances better than do officials, who can make only standardized "cuts" like a scythe that swishes at flowers as well as weeds.

Charging would enable public services, such as police, fire and assault, to maintain their hold on public demand in competition with private services.

Otherwise they will increasingly be shot of funds as rising incomes enable individuals to prefer tailored services that are better than those that can provide equally for a few of taxes reluctantly paid and increasingly evaded.

Charging will be resisted by conservative politicians, all three parties, by the bureaucracies, and by the employees of "public" services anxious about their capacity to compete with private services. The best-buys, each of them, will be officials who welcome the fresh air of competition.

This opposition will be overcome only by a more informed public opinion. There are more voters than public employees. The more informed public opinion can be created by mass press and television and by academics not tied to outdated philosophies of the inherent beneficence of "public" expenditure.

Charging and the new structure of public services could lead to a political realignment. A Minimalist State Party with a Whiggish flavour comprising the wings of all three parties that put liberty before equity would advocate maximum charging in preference to taxing. A Paternalist Party could be formed of the remaining rump. The Minimalist Party would attract about 30 thirds of popular support and remain in power until British Big Government had been reduced to necessary desirable government.

Too radical a reform to be "practical politics"? The realism lies with the objection. The longer the reform is delayed, the more radical, more disturbing to conventional thought and established practice—it will have to be. For it must be decided whether the British will no longer tolerate present policies of suppression and coercion.

They are slow to anger, but decisive when roused, as the feudal barons, the Stuarts, the landed gentry, monopoly business and Hitler learnt. They have voted for the welfare state; they did not vote for a police state.

Arthur Seldon

Charge, by Arthur Seldon, published today by Maurice Temple Smith at £7.50.



The Chinese connexion: May Wong, jailed for trafficking drugs, and Chinese celebrating in Gerrard Street, Soho, where Triad members were murdered last year.



Heroin: at last the veil is lifted on London's secret Chinese societies

Recent outbursts of gang warfare among Chinese communities in London, and intense activity by Scotland Yard's drugs squad, have lifted a tiny corner of the veil which shrouds a worldwide criminal organization as evil and as efficient as anything ever dreamt up by the Mafia. The game is heroin, and the prizes are counted in millions of pounds.

Police speak loosely of rivalry among the Triads, the Chinese secret societies which the Mafia have degenerated from respectable political origins into control of the hard drugs traffic from South-East Asia.

But the Chinese community is by nature the most secretive, the most closely-knit and the least integrated of all immigrant groups in Britain, and drugs officers have found it a near-impossible task to penetrate them.

Nevertheless the drugs squad has in the last year scored some notable successes in intercepting the traffic, and another major breakthrough may be imminent. Responsible members of the Chinese community, sickened by violence, are slowly coming forward with offers of cooperation. A little of Triad activities in Britain is becoming known.

Secret societies were an integral part of Chinese society for centuries before the communist takeover in 1949, and were the country's equivalent of western Freemasonry.

The original Triad Society, which has since lent its name to any form of secret brotherhood, criminal or otherwise, was founded in the late seventeenth century as a political resistance movement to oppose the domination of the Manchu dynasty.

Secret societies flourished during the short-lived Chinese Republic, and the most influential of the present-day criminal organizations, the 14-K, has its origins in this period. Formed in Canton in 1945 by the Nationalist government to rally support against the communists, it took its name from the house at which it was established, No 14, Po Wah Road, Canton.

After the communist victory its leaders scattered and, devoid of political purpose, switched their attention to organized crime in Taiwan and Hongkong. The 14-K is now the dominant force in organized crime in the Chinese community in Britain.

Their principal opponents are the Wo Sing Wo, a much older secret society of impeccable history.

But not all Chinese secret societies are necessarily criminal. The Chi Kung Tung (Achieve Justice Society) was founded in San Francisco in the 1860s as a mutual benefit society, has a branch in Nelson Street, Liverpool, where there is a social club and funeral parlour, and has never been

accused of any criminal activity. The Chi Kung Tung was the one secret society espoused by the Chinese communists on their accession to power, and a deal was done between the two in which continued existence was offered in return for efforts to influence Chinese communities abroad in the ways of Chairman Mao.

Full membership of a Triad involves a long apprenticeship, a complex initiation ceremony full of ritual and oaths, of which the penultimate is "I must never reveal (secret society) secrets or signs when speaking to outsiders. If I do so I will be killed by myriads of swords. There is little doubt that this threat is visited upon recruits.

Scotland Yard began to take a serious interest in the Triads last year, when it became apparent that imports of heroin into the United Kingdom, whose drug problem had previously been regarded

chiefly as one of marijuana, were increasing significantly.

Senior officers of the Royal Hong Kong Police were seconded to instruct the Yard in the ways of organized Chinese crime. It was a timely exercise; latest figures from the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs show that the flow of South-East Asian heroin into Europe has increased by 130 per cent since 1975.

Membership of a Triad is illegal in Hongkong, but it is perfectly legal here. Drugs squad officers, hampered by ignorance and the clandestine nature of the trade, found it difficult to make headway in the investigation of interethnic murders in Gerrard Street last year.

But a recent appeal for information published in *Sin Tao*, the Chinese-language daily published in London, has produced encouraging results.

Outbreaks of violence, as

happened in the Kam Tong restaurant, Baywater, last month, were gang wars with machetes, knives and swords, brings no comfort to the Triad bosses. Their business is heroin, the most profitable commodity in the world, greater even than diamonds, and any activity which attracts outside interest is bad for business.

The latest outbreak is thought to be the work of the Wo Sing Wo, whose "enforcer", the local official responsible for discipline, is now in prison for drug offences. His absence apparently encouraged a break-away group to seek a slice of the profitable protection rackets which are an inevitable undercurrent of the drug traffic.

There have been hints that the dominant 14-K has told its members to steer clear of any overt violence, for fear of disrupting the smooth conduct of the heroin operation.

Profits from the heroin traffic were enormous. May Wong, the Kowloon-educated trafficker jailed for 14 years in January, would buy 2lb of heroin in Singapore for £12,000; by the time it reached the streets of London, sold to addicts for between £40 and £80 a gram, her consignment was worth well over £1m.

More heroin has been seized in Britain this year than ever before. In 1971 the amount on the market was negligible; in

1975 British police and customs officials seized 10lb, and in 1976 they found over 31lb. On New Year's Day this year a 14lb haul was discovered at Heathrow in the luggage of a passenger arriving from Bangkok, and in February a cache of 26lb was found in the hold of a Malaysian freighter in Cardiff docks.

One lesson slowly being learnt by drugs officers is that the arrest of traffickers like May Wong does little to disrupt the system; as soon as one is arrested, the organization ensures an immediate replacement. Wong herself was a replacement for Mervyn Wong, an agent of the Wo Sing Wo, arrested a short time before, who made the fatal mistake of being "bitten by the Big Elephant"—becoming addicted to the drug he peddled.

It is odd to reflect that the deadly white powder, properly called diacetylmorphine, was given the name "heroin" as a trademark at the turn of the century by a German pharmaceutical company which marketed it as a sovereign cure for coughs.

It is less odd to reflect that it was the British who introduced it to China in the first place, the opium from which it is made being a convenient replacement for which the East India Company could make up its trade deficit with the rest of the Empire.

Alan Hamilton

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That controversial historian, David Irving, who annoyed many people with his recent book on Hitler which exonerated the Führer from any part in the extermination of the Jews, is to sustain his exciting attitude to the Second World War with a tome unlikely to please the Churchill family.

Mr Irving has spent the past 18 months researching Churchill for a book which is expected to suggest that the great man was as much a monster as Hitler (Jewish atrocities or not) and Stalin.

From his spacious Grosvenor Square apartment yesterday he told me that the book will be "unsettling", but would not go into great detail. "It will be disturbing in its dealings with the Czech diplomats in London at the time of the Munich crisis and, in that connection, all his private financial positions of that time", he added, mysteriously.

In case anyone is interested, Mr Irving insists on adding that as he grew to know Churchill (during the period of his research) he found himself "oddly warming to him".

The book, which will need about another 18 months of research, partly in America, is expected to be published in two years time. Meanwhile, Mr Irving is to sustain our interest in his great talent for controversy by publishing two more contentious works within the next few months.

Michael Joseph will publish the first volume of his interpretation of Hitler in April. It deals with the period 1933 to 1939 and "plugs directly into the start" of the already published second volume. More interesting, perhaps, Weidenfeld and Nicolson will publish Mr Irving's biography of Field Marshal Rostam, which is called *The Trail of the Fox*.

Not one to let go of a good story when he has got it, Mr Irving continues to investigate things Nazi with much success. On this occasion he concludes that Rommel's suicide was not as we have always believed it to be.

"I think I have got inside his mind", Mr Irving tells me after spending some months wrestling with the German shorthand notes nearly as old as his 39 years. He adds that while he has had much sympathetic correspondence since the publication of his book on Hitler he has also been subjected to some abuse.

This included the theft recently of the mascot from his Rolls-Royce which he left himself "oddly warming to him".

Hoping jumbo remembers

Missing yesterday from the mantelpiece of the headmaster's study at Brighton College were 15 carved elephants, a tradition at the 132-year-old public school says they represent the souls of departed headmasters.

"We hope this is just a schoolboy prank and that the missing elephants will find their way back on to the headmaster's mantelpiece", the college bursar, Kenneth Walker, told me.

Because of possible insurance claims if the elephants do not turn up, the headmaster, William Blackshaw, has had to call in the police.

Not size but quality

It was not, the lovely lady from Wexford told me, a press conference. She proved it by neither pressing nor conferring. "It is", she went on, seductively, "just a luncheon for friends of the Wexford Festival". And then she proceeded to press and confer at some length.

Announcing the plans for next month's (as I see it) alcoholic extravaganza, the deeply Scottish artistic director of the Festival Opera, Thomson Smilie, said that *Herodias*

Rose by any other name

That peripatetic MP, my old friend Norman St John Stevas (Conservative), is off to Washington to "celebrate" (his word, not mine) the presentation of an honorary degree at Georgetown University to Mrs Rose Kennedy, the patient mother of that family, whose former daughter-in-law has just hit the headlines (again) over a certain well-seemingly.

Mrs Kennedy, who is 87, already holds two honorary degrees and is a keen advocate of the Kennedy Institute (of which Mr St John Stevas is a trustee) which sponsors investigations into something known as

Special pleading consume-wise

Lawyers keen to maintain their present lucrative ways of doing business want to put on the best possible face before the Royal Commission on Legal Services. They have not been enjoying too good a press, at their skill in advocacy is required to underline their vital role in upholding individual liberties and citizens' rights in the pressure of modern society.

A pity, then, that the Law Society has to make it quite so plain that the professional know well which side their briefs are buttered.

On page 92 of Memorandum No 3, Part I, Paragraph 6, the Law Society's evidence to the Royal Commission, they describe a revised course of solicitors' education commencing in 1980.

Surprise, surprise: consumer protection comes neither in the section called "The Solicitor and his Private Client", nor under "Litigation". It comes instead under the heading "The Solicitor and his Corporate Client" (as).

To the lawyers, clearly, consumer protection means the protection they have to provide firms and companies against their customers, not something they have to advise private consumers about.

The shadow education minister has been on holiday in the Isle of Capri. He is obviously keen to get back to the real business of politics and favours (pace his holiday island nearest active, older ladies.

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WHAT WILL MR VORSTER PROVE?

Mr Vorster has called an election for November 30 1977 because he sees that mid-1979, the normal time for an election, will be very much worse. He has 123 seats in a House of 171 and to go to the country half way through his term when in such strength is a clear admission that the South African and the Nationalist Party are facing an unprecedented crisis. To that extent the point so promptly made by the various opposition leaders that the decision is a confession of weakness, is well taken. But the approval of the Afrikaner organs of opinion also stems from deep-rooted instincts: in a tight corner show the world that your people are solidly behind you. This was the thinking of Mr Ian Smith's recent election and for what it is worth he got his unconditional vote of confidence. On a larger scale Mr Vorster seems to have a similar intention.

No doubt the inchoate condition of the opposition parties is a temptation. To pick up a few more of the former United Party seats, particularly those of the infant South African Party and the Nationalist Party's New Republic Party, will enhance a show of white solidarity. By 1979 the wreckage of the United Party might have sorted itself into an opposition with a viable alternative, programme that would have acquired effective electoral appeal, when the failures of Nationalist policy will be more apparent. It is not impossible that Mr Vorster has his own retirement in mind, in which case the Nationalist Party needs time before the ensuing election to settle upon a suc-

cessor, and that successor would need time to work himself in. The question must, however, be asked, what will a massive show of white South African solidarity behind the Nationalist Party really mean? It is hardly necessary to have an election at this stage to demonstrate that the majority of white South Africans reject ingenuous American proposals for a one man one vote franchise and the dismantling of the bantustan policy at an early date. These proposals, put forward tentatively by Mr Mondale in Vienna, were really a statement of American beliefs and ideals, and a declaration that the United States felt no necessity to hold white South Africa for the western world. South Africans may be wary about American policy, but no election will change it.

A Nationalist victory would only resolve the growing debate within the party itself if Mr Vorster plainly said in the campaign what precise policies such a victory would endorse—and repudiate any candidate to either side of him who talk out of line. He presumably will say that a vote for the party is a vote for some social change—notably for the plans for Coloured and Asian parallel pseudo-parliaments. He can easily get applause for a strong law and order line, and take this to exonerate the police over the death of Steven Biko.

But will he then come out for local self-government for Soweto and comparable black townships within white South Africa? Will he declare that black workers can have equal

pay and trade unions? On many such issues on the crumbling edges of the central commitment to "separate development", the Nationalists are deeply divided. Only explicit statements by Mr Vorster will show. If they are extracted from him, the election will clear the air a little.

Basically a massive vote of support for Mr Vorster and his carefully composed government of verkrampes and vertigies, will be a vote for apartheid, pseudo-independent bantustans, indefinite exclusion of the black majority from any share in national decision-making. It will hardly reflect the anxious and tentative new thinking among young Afrikaners, nor a changing mood among whites generally. It will stifle or swamp expression of this. Perhaps in 1979 it would have been reflected in some significant Progressive Federal Party gains. Next month the only gains the Progressives will make will be at the expense of other fragments of the United Party, which will clarify nothing.

If the election reassures South Africans that they can form a larger and defy the trends and pressures of the modern world, it will do them and their children a disservice. A siege or a steppe economy is no policy for a governing party, because it is not a solution to problems, nor does it promise victory or peaceful settlements. For who will raise the siege? In 1899 Paul Kruger declared war on the British. Mr Vorster challenges much more intractable if slower-moving foes in 1977—the world, and the late twentieth century. Unlike Kruger he has no sympathisers.

Attempt to unseat Tory MP

From Mr Neville Beale

Sir, With reference to the item today (September 21) on the one and the leading article concerning the wisdom of efficacy of Chelsea's MP, Mr. Nich. Scott, may I state the following:

1. A private business meeting of the Standing Selection Committee of Chelsea Conservative Association was held this week to discuss a procedure for adoption of the prospective parliamentary candidate.

2. All those present agreed that nothing would be said in public before the Executive Council meeting next week.

3. Regrettably, some members of the committee have seen fit to break this agreement.

4. The resulting press reports have been inaccurate, and I am therefore obliged to state that ideological matters are not the main criticism which have been directed by members of this association against the Member of Parliament.

5. Diverse in this allegation of ideological differences has been reflected in telephone calls and letters which I have received since the meeting from several of those present.

6. Suggestions that I have been leading a campaign against the Member of Parliament are quite untrue. The receipt and investigation of complaints against the Member started under my predecessor as chairman of the association.

7. Your suggestion that "Chelsea is almost the last place where one would expect the misfortunes (sic) of private life to be used to damage a candidate" is also untrue to be appreciated in the constituency.

Yours sincerely,
NEVILLE BEALE,
Chairman, Chelsea Conservative Association.

14 Chelsea Manor Street, SW3, September 21.

From Mrs Diana Heimann
Sir, Eight years ago, Sir Nigel Fisher, MP, was facing the same problem in his constituency as Nicholas Scott has in Chelsea and Kensington.

At that time, Iain Macleod sent a letter to Sir Nigel saying, "I am going to I go to make the same declaration on Nick Scott's behalf."

I wonder which of his friends, colleagues and supporters will now stand up and be counted?

Yours faithfully,
DIANA HEIMANN,
Horsford House,
Cockshill,
Buckinghamshire,
September 21.

Birmingham bishopric
From the Reverend Canon A. K. Walker

Sir, News these days is often depressing. I was heartened, therefore, to read of the sharply worded opinion by a leading Birmingham Conservative and the Birmingham Evening Mail to any suggestion that Hugh Montefiore should succeed to the See of Birmingham.

It is clearly important that a bishop should be non-controversial. The harmony of the social system might otherwise be threatened. We have only to read the histories of Isaiah, Jeremiah, St Paul and Jesus Christ to realize how inconvenient controversialists are.

Opposition to Concordia naturally indicated complete lack of appreciation of engineering skill and the needs of the aviation industry, which are the points at issue in the dispute. It allied him also with such simpletons as Arthur Koestler, Baroness Stocks, and at least four Fellows of the Royal Society.

We might have relied upon Mr Beaumont-Dark to identify the bishop as an ass. Dostoevsky wrote a novel more or less called *The Ass*, and we can recall the indifferent public showing made by the hero of that tale. I stand behind my Birmingham colleagues. What the Church and the world needs today is non-responsibility but respectability: not prophets but safe men.

Yours sincerely,
KEITH WALKER,
The Precinct,
Chichester Cathedral,
The Precinct,
Canon Lane,
Chichester,
Sussex,
September 15.

Water colours gallery
From the Dowager Lady Davidson (Lady Northchurch)

Sir, My attention has been drawn to a report in your paper of the plight of the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colours which is facing a most difficult time in its long history.

The Society is appealing for funds to help towards the cost of a new gallery now being built on Bankside at Blackfriars. It has been successful so far in raising some £80,000 by covenants over the next seven years. It needs £200,000. There has been some support from industry, trusts and foundations and other well wishers, but more funds are urgently needed.

The RWS, founded in 1804, is the oldest and most distinguished water colour society in the world and it is a tragedy that rising rents and rates are forcing the Society to vacate its present premises in Conduit Street. The members are facing the challenge of establishing themselves in an entirely new area. Southwark Council are to be complimented on their cooperation in providing the new site and so securing such a cultural amenity. Water colour painting is part of our national art heritage and we should do our utmost to preserve such a precious jewel.

I write, not as a practising artist, but as a member of that great body of citizens who enjoy looking at pictures.

Our great city could be justly proud to sponsor such a worthy cause.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN DAVIDSON,
Consultant Psychiatrist,
King's College Hospital,
Denmark Hill, SE5,
September 19.

Treating mental illness
From Dr John Hutchinson

Sir, Mr Christopher Price, MP for Lewisham West (September 15) criticises electro-convulsive therapy. If he had spoken to psychiatrists beforehand he would have learned that it can be given without causing memory impairment or a sense of terror. His suggestion that psychiatrists punish their patients is beneath contempt.

One of the reasons why Mr Price is so poorly informed about psychiatry is because Lewisham is the only district in South London to lack an inpatient psychiatric unit in a local hospital. His constituents who need such care have to travel to distant mental hospitals and feel unhappy about this situation without success. If Mr Price were to use his talents in persuading the authorities to establish such a unit, his constituents would be less deprived and he would be able to learn about modern psychiatric practice at first hand.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN T. HUTCHINSON,
Consultant Psychiatrist,
King's College Hospital,
Denmark Hill, SE5,
September 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mrs Thatcher and the trade unions

From Sir Ian Gilmore, MP for Chesham and Amersham (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article (September 19) "Calling in the people" largely observed that "Not much will be said to be had from considering the wisdom or efficacy of a referendum in ignorance of the circumstances which prompt the calling of it." Unfortunately you immediately forgot your own words, and in doing so you actually ignored the circumstances which this proposal was made.

Before Mrs Thatcher's interview, we were shown a film which both in its general shoddiness and in its political content was a passable imitation of a Labour Party political broadcast.

The film seemed to envisage something in the nature of a general strike in support of the miners' demands. Your criticism therefore that because of the policies likely to be followed by the next Conservative government the Board and the NCM would be involved is plainly unjustified. Not even Professor Hayek himself would counsel government inaction in face of a threatened general strike.

And your second implied criticism—that a lot of referenda would be undesirable—is equally wide of the mark since even the most biased Labour propaganda could hardly expect (or hope) that such a situation would crop up very often. In fact, as Mrs Thatcher emphasized in the programme, it is highly unlikely to occur at all.

Michael Foot tells us that "It is in the House of Commons that the community of Britain is supposed to make its final decisions on these matters. The House is to be directly answerable to the people."

Such little incidents as his bending the rules of the Commons, and when that stratagem failed fixing the vote, Mr Foot was a fervent proponent of referenda.

Though the House of Commons had already made "its final decision" on that issue, and recently Mr Foot has been a supporter of breaking the constitutional convention of collective ministerial responsibility to the House of Commons by claiming to be allowed to oppose his own Government's Bill. Until Mr Foot's constitutional practice comes within shouting distance of his words, it would be seemly for him to keep silent on constitutional questions.

Of course referenda have their disadvantages, but in a free state a government's only support is public opinion. And in London Weekend's scenario the Labour Party, unless it has learned responsibility since 1973 (which seems unlikely) would be slavishly supporting the miners. In such circumstances a referendum would almost certainly be the most reliable way of discovering where public opinion lies.

To what Koestler used to call an "iffy" question, only an "iffy" response can be made. But granted that Mrs Thatcher was asked a very hypothetical question indeed, she surely gave the best possible answer.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
IAN GILMORE,
House of Commons,
September 20.

Refugees from Vietnam
From the Chairman of the British Council for Aid to Refugees

Sir, Your leading article (September 15) about the plight of the South Vietnamese "boat people" quotes a figure of 151 being taken by Britain.

Some comment from the Council which has undertaken sponsorship of these people may be relevant. We do not think the question whether more "boat people" should be brought here can be considered in isolation. This country has a long and honourable tradition of offering asylum to refugees; but the number of refugees, as distinct from other immigrants, admitted to this country in the past five years has been very small, averaging no more than 1,000 a year. Fear of admitting more should not be allowed to override humanitarian considerations.

The problems of refugees, especially those of non-European origin, are difficult to solve, requiring resources of money, accommodation, jobs and local support. It may not be generally known that 20 reception centres are provided by government. It has been left to voluntary agencies to make their own arrangements. In so far as government has concerned itself with refugees once they have been given asylum, it has normally worked through the British Council for Aid to Refugees. BCAR, at first mainly a co-ordinating council, made up of societies working for refugees in this country, has over the years built up its own staff.

Arrangements for the reception and settlement of refugees, other than students looked after by World University Service, have in recent years usually been shared between BCAR's staff and that of Ockenden Venture, itself a member of our Council.

Our staff is at present stretched to the limit in attending to the cumulative needs of some hundreds of unsettled refugees of over 30 different nationalities who have been referred to us in the past two years. If larger numbers of refugees are to be admitted, whether "boat people" or others, many of whom are in equal need, more help in money and experienced personnel will have to be found. It is not mainly that available reception centres and staff to man them are fully occupied, but that local support groups would need to be set up in places where jobs, homes and schooling are most pressing.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP BARBER, Chairman,
British Council for Aid to Refugees,
35 Great Peter Street, SW1.

The drink with haggis
From Mrs Pamela Vandyske Price

Sir, While I have been abroad it seems that "the haggis has been flying low", to quote one of my friends at William Grant, who years ago introduced me to Standfast, Glenfiddich and Bannockburn.

Indeed I am aware that, on its native heath, the haggis may be traditionally accompanied by Scotch. But in my article, suggesting red wines suitable for certain types of modest game and sausage dishes, I was thinking of those readers who may opt for the blood of the grape, perhaps for reasons of economy, or because they are being cautious about drinking spirits for reasons of diet or driving, or simply because they and their guests like wine with their meals.

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Yours truly,
PAMELA VANDYSKE PRICE,
8 Queens Gate, SW7.

Reforming the Lords
From Mr Alan Campbell, QC

Sir, If the two great needs are less legislation and more control over the executive, it is possible that a new style of government and the setting up of an administrative court could do some way to solving these problems. But Sir Peter Rawlinson (September 13) not a little wide of the mark in suggesting that it would be frivolous to seek to reform the House of Lords unless members of the House of Commons were willing to subject themselves to partial annihilation? For whilst rejecting a unicameral system he hints at a useful consideration of reform of the House of Lords as being exclusively dependent upon an event which is not likely to happen. In the result the case of the abolitionist would remain unanswered, and the introduction of reforms to strengthen a bicameral system would be irrelevant.

Surely one must assume that the House of Commons will continue much as at present constituted when considering reform of the House of Lords? Such, it is suggested, is the context in which what means should be sought to satisfy the two great needs.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ALAN CAMPBELL,
Chairman, Constitutional Reform Committee,
Secretary of Conservative Lawyers,
Temple, EC4.

Made victim of strikes
From Mr D. J. E. Longridge

Sir, As we settled into our aircraft at Frankfurt airport this morning, the news that our arrival at Heathrow would be delayed only 25 minutes by the air traffic control strikes was received with relief. Particularly after being offered bread to take back by my German management.

Then the captain announced that there was also a baggage unloading problem and that the crew unloading "the whole aircraft would probably come out". So he asked the German and British businessmen on board for six volunteers to unload the plane on arrival.

I am a senior executive of a major US multinational corporation. I am British. I have had enough.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. E. LONGRIDGE,
74 Chelsea Park Gardens, SW3.

Determining 'fair wage'
From Mr A. J. Morgan

Sir, Mr Price of the Low Pay Unit assumes it is the responsibility of the employer to pay a "fair wage" to his employees. He is right insofar as the wage should bear some resemblance to the value of the work done.

If society decides that a fair wage is insufficient to provide decent minimum living standards then it is up to society to make up the difference. The person who employs a hairdresser at £23.35 a week is presumably able to offer a cheap and efficient service to those who desire to have their hair dressed. Why pay more?

Yours faithfully,
A. J. MORGAN,
99 Albert Bridge Road, SW11.

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the land which can effectively be mustered against a powerful trade union which holds itself to be above the law is that evasive concept known as "public opinion". Surely what Mrs Thatcher is suggesting is that there may be circumstances which call for the galvanizing of such opinion which, if it supported a proposed line of action by the government, could make that action practical for the very reason that it would be seen to be supported not only by the government but also by the mass of the people—a very different proposition. The fact that the "mass of the people" would include vast numbers of moderate trade union members strengthens the argument.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. R. SPIRA,
81 George Street, W.1,
September 21.

From Mr David Mathieson
Sir, Contrary to what you seem to be arguing in your leader today (September 19), the announcement by Mrs Thatcher that, in the extreme event of a major government-union confrontation, she would call for a referendum is neither political camouflage nor irrelevancy, but is a sign of a strong determination not to end in a "February 1974" situation.

Firstly, a national referendum could be used to give the Government the political authority to do nothing, to ride out a strike without becoming involved, and hence without being forced to concede to a union over the heads of an employer. This could well arise if the House of Commons, in a nationalized industry where the union has traditionally negotiated directly with the ministers involved.

Secondly, a referendum could give the Government the authority to take action against the effects of a strike, i.e. to ensure the maintenance of vital supplies and services, or to prevent the intimidation of workers not otherwise involved. One thinks of course of the mass strikes which have led to the blockade of the power stations.

Mrs Thatcher has thus served notice that a Conservative government, armed with the affirmative vote of the electors, would meet any confrontation forced upon it with a resolve and a determination at least as strong as that of any union, and she has shown that no minority will be allowed to impose its wishes on the Government by the threat of industrial or physical force.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MATHIESON,
37 Pinfold Drive,
Ecclestone,
St Helens,
Merseyside,
September 19.

From Mr D. E. Folkes
Sir, The contingency put to Mrs Thatcher in *Weekend World* on Sunday, September 18, was that the miners might price themselves out of work and go on strike because they had done so, and, having done so, the active support of the whole trade union movement. She said, quite rightly, that it was unlikely that her suggestions of what she might do in such an improbable event are unimportant except for propaganda purposes.

If I may use Marxist terms, anyone who thinks that these days there are workers who will price their labour out of employment and then get the active sympathy of the rest of the working class labouring under a bourgeois illusion.

Yours faithfully,
D. E. FOLKES,
5 Queen's Walk,
Ealing, W5,
September 19.

Refugees from Vietnam
From the Chairman of the British Council for Aid to Refugees

Sir, Your leading article (September 15) about the plight of the South Vietnamese "boat people" quotes a figure of 151 being taken by Britain.

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Indeed I am aware that, on its native heath, the haggis may be traditionally accompanied by Scotch. But in my article, suggesting red wines suitable for certain types of modest game and sausage dishes, I was thinking of those readers who may opt for the blood of the grape, perhaps for reasons of economy, or because they are being cautious about drinking spirits for reasons of diet or driving, or simply because they and their guests like wine with their meals.

Being myself a devotee of haggis, black and white puddings, andouilles, boudins of all colours, multi-patterned salame and worst of assorted seasonings, plus, of course, the noble banger, I would drink a red wine with these on most occasions. My experience of haggis has not included the very peppery type, as mentioned by one of your correspondents, but in Catalonia, where I have recently consumed numerous regional sausages, including the superb butifarra, the red wines of the Penedès region were quite robust enough to balance the seasonings.

Yours truly,
PAMELA VANDYSKE PRICE,
8 Queens Gate, SW7.

The drink with haggis
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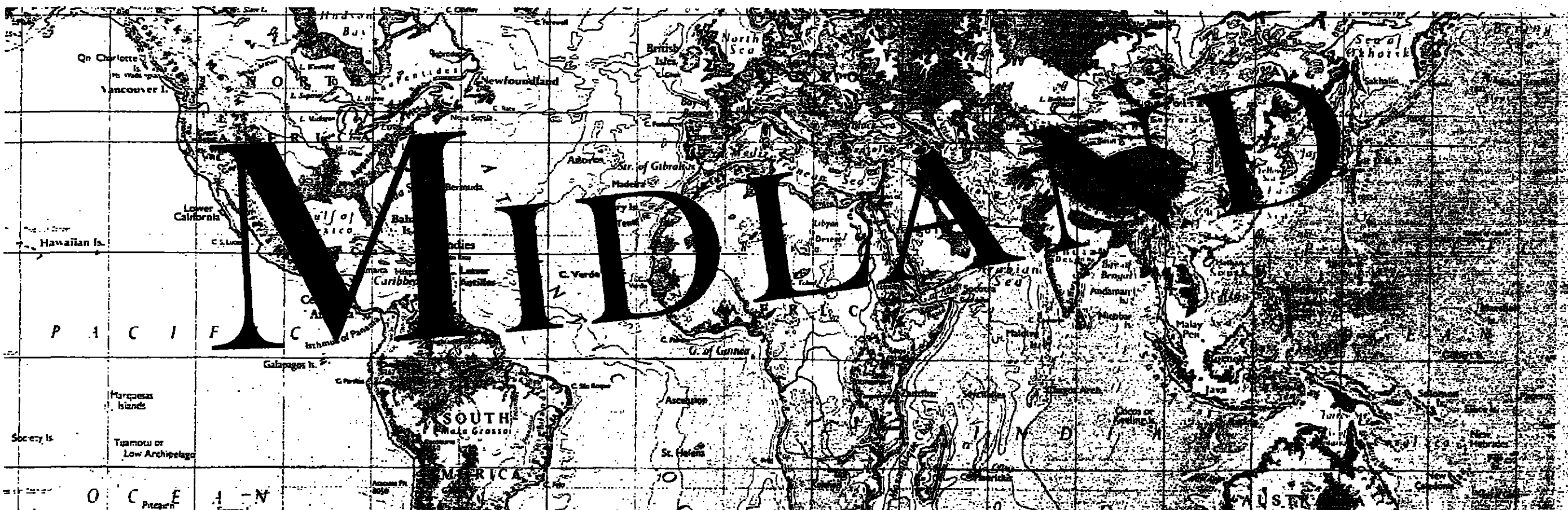
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[illegible]

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

John Foord
PLANT AND
MACHINERY
VALUERS

John Foord
PLANT AND
MACHINERY
VALUERS

MPs attack lack of control over NEB and state oil corporation

By Peter Hill

Lack of accountability to Parliament by the National Enterprise Board and the British National Oil Corporation, both of which are involved in substantial financial transactions, came under strong attack yesterday from the Public Accounts Committee.

In its latest report the all-party committee of MPs, which acts as Parliament's watchdog on public spending, sharply criticised the present arrangements and machinery for ensuring that Parliament was kept fully informed of how the two organisations were spending their money.

Mr Edward du Cann, chairman of the committee, told a press conference that the arrangements covering the accountability of both the NEB and the BNOOC were typical of the way in which parliamentary control had slipped progressively in recent years.

He said that full parliamentary debate on the whole question of control over public expenditure—and the role of cash limits in particular—was long overdue.

The committee's report noted that no parliamentary approval was required for even major financial transactions by the NEB except in those cases where the board acted under the direction of the Secretary of State for Industry in providing sums of more than £5m under section 8 of the Industry Act.

The 1975 Act which established the NEB and its guidelines for operation had been debated and both the Department of Industry and the board considered that any further detailed and closer accountability would fundamentally change the intended relationship and the effectiveness of the board's work.

Access to the Board's accounts by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, it had been stated, could adversely affect the NEB's ability to help industry.

Leyland aid warning by all-party watchdog

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Further funds for British Leyland should be made conditional on increased cooperation and improved productivity from the company's labour force, the Public Accounts Committee said yesterday.

Its recommendation was made in the committee's latest report, which examined in detail the activities of the National Enterprise Board and, in particular, its relationship with Leyland.

The warning came only a day after Mr Leslie Murphy, chairman of the NEB, made clear that if Leyland could not raise its share of the money needed for investment, the board would not provide extra funds to bail it out.

£860,000 aid to workers' cooperative is criticized

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Major doubts are voiced in the latest report of the Public Accounts Committee over an £860,000 grant this year to the Kirby workers' cooperative launched with £3.9m of public money in 1975.

The committee expresses concern at the absence of evidence that the £860,000 allocated to the Merseyside cooperative—the Kirby Manufacturing and Engineering Company—would save it in the long term.

It says it recognizes the special employment difficulties of the area and the human and social problems involved and appreciates there are likely to be savings in unemployment

The report commented: "In the case of the NEB we do not accept as sufficient the assurance that the Secretary of State would try to keep Parliament informed of developments on as many occasions as possible. We further consider that the board itself should be directly accountable to Parliament for the public funds which it spends."

It continued: "We consider the present arrangements for accountability are less comprehensive than is justified by the importance of the board's operations and the very large sums of public money that it spends. We further consider that our examination of the board's activities would be greatly facilitated if the Comptroller and Auditor-General were granted access to the books and records of the board."

The committee plans to review the effectiveness of the present arrangements in the light of a year's experience of their operation.

Mr du Cann's committee also looked at the scope for public surveillance of the BNOOC's financial activities and noted that the corporation's own accounts were audited by commercial accountants appointed by the Secretary of State for Energy.

But the Comptroller and Auditor-General had made arrangements for access to the BNOOC's records relating to the corporation's financial activities for government departments and to transactions concerning the National Oil Account.

The committee noted that the unusual statutory provisions for BNOOC's financials were framed to maintain departmental control over the receipt and use of the large sums of public money that were likely to accrue to BNOOC.

It therefore considered it appropriate for the committee to examine and oversee BNOOC's activities in line with the surveillance exercised by the committee in other parts of the public sector.

In its report the committee said that it noted the public interest in the rescue and continued development of the company and the strong case for continuing to provide further public funds—so long as the essential cooperation of the workforce and consequent improvements in productivity and production could be assured to match international competitive levels.

It recommended that further public funds should be released only after firm evidence that the company was achieving and sustaining such levels of performance. It added: "We further consider that whatever form any further assistance to the company may take, Parliament's prior approval should be sought."

and redundancy payments for some time if jobs can be kept going.

"But we are nevertheless concerned about some implications of this further assistance to the Kirby co-operative," the report adds.

Clearly major doubts whether the co-operative could become profitable within any reasonable time and there was no assurance that the latest £860,000 would more than tide it over its financial difficulties for a short time.

"Temporary support for an enterprise which appears most unlikely to achieve viability on ordinary commercial terms on post-poned difficult decisions," the report says.

Gold gained \$0.50 an ounce to \$151.25.

S&P-A was 1.15140 on Wednesday, while S&P-E was 0.666705.

Commodities: Coffee prices fell sharply. Reuters' index was 1501.2 (previous 1503.3).

Reports, pages 22 and 23

World's top monetary official decides to give up post for family reasons

Dr Witteveen to step down as head of IMF



Dr Witteveen: Delayed announcement until completion of credit plan.

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Sept 21

Dr Johannes Witteveen announced today that he planned to leave his post as managing director of the International Monetary Fund next year.

Dr Witteveen, who has played a leading role in restructuring the world's monetary system and in ensuring that the IMF could aid the multitude of countries with serious balance-of-payments problems, told the fund's executive board of directors that he would resign because of pressing personal problems.

The managing director's current five-year contract expires next August, but IMF officials stated that he would announce his resignation at a second five-year term had he sought it in Washington in late 1973, after a distinguished academic career and several years as Holland's minister of finance.

The IMF chief's four children are all attending schools in Holland, and one of his sons is seriously ill. He believes that his hectic schedule here and his constant travels on behalf of the IMF have not given him sufficient time to spend with his family and concern him-

self, in particular, with the emotional and other difficulties arising from his son's illness.

The decision is a purely personal one. Dr Witteveen has timed it in such a way as to ensure that speculation concerning his views of the IMF is not associated with the move. He has delayed his announcement until after completing all arrangements for the establishment of special IMF supplementary credit facility with resources of about \$10,000m.

Speculation about his successor is bound to be widespread in the next few days as the fund's annual meeting gets under way here. Dr Witteveen believes that the man who follows him should be both a trained economist and a former minister of finance. These are the criteria that he thought he should set in Washington in late 1973, after a distinguished academic career and several years as Holland's minister of finance.

Dr Witteveen took over the management of the IMF when the world monetary system had been brought into virtual chaos by the full establishment of floating among leading countries and by the quadrupling of oil prices. The IMF itself was having deep problems

in winning respect from the chief industrial countries, especially from the United States.

He was nobody's first choice when informal negotiations took place in 1973 on finding a successor to Mr Pierre-Paul Schweitzer, who had been forced to resign the IMF's directorship by the Nixon Administration.

The job was first offered to Dr Jelle Zijlstra, the Dutch central bank governor, who formally declined the offer. Others considered were Mr Callaghan, Mr Roy Jenkins, Mr Conrad Oort, who was Treasurer-General in Holland, Dr Omar Emminger, then Vice-President of the West German Federal Bank, and Signor Rinaldo Ossola, then deputy head of Italy's central bank.

After months of discussions there remained only Dr Witteveen and Mr Oort as possibilities and the former got the offer, largely, it was said at the time, because of the strong backing of Dr Zijlstra and Dr Arthur Burns, the United States central bank chief.

Today it seems likely that both Mr Oort, who has taken a top Dutch banking job, and Signor Ossola, now an Italian government minister, are likely to be considered seriously as successors.

Bonn sets conditions for increasing IMF quotas

From Peter Norman
Bonn, Sept 21

The West German government tonight made clear that it will support an increase in International Monetary Fund quotas only on conditions that it does not lead to a potentially inflationary expansion in international liquidity.

Dr Hans Apel, the West German finance minister, said that Germany would accept a 50 per cent increase in fund quotas, if the first unconditional tranche of IMF lending were raised by a small amount of perhaps, 20 to 25 per cent. The greater part of the quota increase would be distributed between the second, third and

fourth tranches where the IMF imposes strict conditions on borrowing countries.

Dr Apel underlined that the European Community had not yet agreed about the quota, and gave the German stand-point extra bite by warning that Bonn will raise the question of restructuring IMF quotas if a large overall quota increase is envisaged.

Although West Germany may be standing firmly against what it sees as an unwarranted expansion of international liquidity, Dr Apel made clear that Bonn will support a substantial rise in the capital of the World Bank.

US optimism on new credit facility

From Our United States Economics Correspondent
Washington, Sept 21

Recent fluctuations in the exchange rate of the pound do not indicate that the British Government has violated the International Monetary Fund's guidelines for the management of floating currencies in the view of Mr Anthony Solomon, the United States under Secretary of the Treasury for Monetary Affairs.

Mr Solomon said that major decisions would not be taken at the IMF's annual meeting fund here next week or at the meeting of the Fund's interim committee of finance ministers on Saturday.

He told a press conference it appeared most likely that

Congress would approve a contribution in January of \$1,700m to the newly created IMF special supplementary credit facility. It was therefore likely this essential facility, with total resources of about \$10,000m would become operational early next year.

Important discussions would take place between finance ministers here in the next week, Mr Solomon continued. America hoped it would be possible for governments to see an increase in IMF quotas, Mr Solomon declared, but he did not believe an early agreement could be achieved if consideration was given at the same time to a major redistribution of member country shareholdings in the fund.

meeting in May on formal economic target rates of growth for 1978. Some countries might not be in a position yet to agree on such targets.

He admitted there had been little progress in recent months towards agreeing on a new increase in IMF membership quotas. A decision, agreement should be reached by next February, but this date had to be viewed as flexible.

The United States wanted to see an increase in IMF quotas, Mr Solomon declared, but he did not believe an early agreement could be achieved if consideration was given at the same time to a major redistribution of member country shareholdings in the fund.

RTZ mining setback in Namibia

By Desmond Quigley

Underground operations at Rossing, the controversial uranium mine in Namibia in which Rio Tinto-Zinc has a 46 per cent interest, have been halted because of the erratic nature of the ore body. Mining continues, however, in the open pit section.

Meanwhile, RTZ has reported a 19 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £146.1m. However, the increase was much less than City estimated, with the result that the shares were heavily marked down yesterday.

At the close they were 20p off at 216p.

The abandonment of the underground operations for the time being comes after the major shareholders in the mine, who also include the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa and General Mining, subscribed for a \$75m rights issue.

The mine has been plagued by problems, both mechanical and human, and the capital cost of the whole operation has now reached about £250m (about £165m). The final cost is expected to reach £280m by the time all the mechanical rectifications have been made.

The decision to abandon temporarily the underground operations has had a big effect on the profitability of operation. It is the underground section which contains the higher grade ore, and it had been intended to supplement the lower grade ore from the open pit with the underground output to produce a swift positive cash flow.

The mine is now running at about 75 per cent of capacity, although the output of U308 is certain to be a significantly lower proportion of original projections.

A major problem for the mine has been the coarse and abrasive nature of the ore, which has resulted in the malfunctioning of machinery in the leaching and thickening processes. New equipment is to be installed from early next year through to the autumn.

Financial Editor, page 21

Barclaycard defers rate adjustment

By Ronald Pullen
Banking Correspondent

Barclaycard is unlikely to make any adjustment to its interest rate for at least another month. Pre-empted last week by Access, the rival credit card group, which lowered its interest charges a 1 point to 12 per cent a month with effect from October 1, Barclaycard is now waiting to see how much business it loses as a result of the more than 31 per cent differential in the true annual rate of interest between the two credit card companies.

With around a quarter of its card members also holders of Access cards, Barclaycard is in the more vulnerable position. But the extent of any shift in business will not become apparent for at least another month.

In the meantime, Barclaycard is assessing the outlook for interest rates to see if there is scope for undercutting its rival by trimming a full 1 point off its rate.

At the time Access lowered its rate, Barclaycard claimed that to return to the 11 per cent level of two years earlier would plunge it into losses.

Since then, however, minimum lending rate has fallen by another 1 point to 6 per cent, giving the credit card companies another handsome boost to their profitability.

Barclaycard is also anxious to defer its adjustment because of the added costs that would be involved in making two changes in quick succession.

BOC wins fight to keep 35 pc stake in Aircro

By Our Financial Staff

BOC International has finally won the battle to keep possession of its 35 per cent stake in Aircro.

The United States Federal Trade Commission, which had until October 17 next to present a case in the Supreme Court for divestment, announced yesterday that it no longer intended to pursue its claim that the stake presented a threat to potential entry to the American industrial gases market.

The actual case concerning

£19.5m counter bid by Rockware Group

By Brian Appleyard

Rockware Group yesterday launched a £19.5m counter bid for the whole of Redfearn National Glass ahead of the closure of the 300p per share cash partial bid from the American-owned Rheem International on Friday.

Rockware, whose offer is being partially underwritten by Pilkington Brothers, is offering 13 new shares plus £7.66 cash for every eight Redfearn shares, which puts a value of 320p on the Redfearn shares at last night's closing price for Rockware of 138p, up 2p on the day.

In addition, Rockware is offering 75p cash for both types of Redfearn preference shares. However, Redfearn has already rejected the Rockware proposals.

The package involves the issue of almost 9.9 million new Rockware shares and it provides a cash alternative. This has been arranged by Kleinwort Benson and involves the underwriting of the first 3.7 million new shares by Pilkington Brothers at 138p and the rest at 125p by Kleinwort.

Pilkington itself was widely tipped as a rival bidder for Redfearn and, if it was required to take up all the shares it has underwritten, it would increase its current 19.3 per cent stake in Redfearn to 25 per cent.

The takeover would give the enlarged company 45 per cent of the United Kingdom glass container market but yesterday Mr Jim Craigie, the chairman of Redfearn, said he did not think the Monopolies Commission would veto the deal.

He pointed out that the industry really consisted of the whole spectrum of glass, plastic and metal containers and the group would have only 17 per cent of this market.

Mr Craigie added that the new group would be more efficient by eliminating duplication of research and development work.

Commenting on the Rheem bid, he said its success would have created the undesirable situation where two major British glass container groups were half American-owned—Redfearn and United Glass.

But the Redfearn board has responded to the Rockware approach with another rejection. They say the bid was "unwelcome and unsolicited" and the terms are "totally inadequate".

Rockware had already approached Redfearn on an informal basis and been rejected before yesterday's announcement.

Meanwhile, Rheem's merchant bank adviser, Morgan Grenfell, said it was considering its next move. Mr Jim Risk, president of Rheem, is currently in Greece, but he will be in London on Friday, the closing date of his bid.

Redfearn shares were up 20p to 300p yesterday and the Stock Exchange said it was looking into dealings in case an investigation was necessary after the shares moved sharply ahead of the announcement.

Rockware also yesterday announced pre-tax profits of £4.4m for the 26 weeks to July 3 against £1.9m last year. Turnover was up from £29.5m to £43.4m and the interim dividend is 3.02p gross against 2p last time.

Financial Editor, page 21

Hope of 1 pc cut in home loan rate

In Brief

losing the confidence of some of the biggest retailers but it gained support this week when the three biggest voluntary wholesaling groups, VC, Spar and Mace/Warwick, joined it.

Money supply fears depress Wall Street

Worries by investors about a possible new rise in the money supply were behind Wall Street's biggest loss for nearly two years yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial index fell sharply below the 850 level to close 10.82 points down at 840.96 on trading in 22,200,000 shares. The last time it closed lower was on December 22, 1975, when it finished at 838.63.

Call to widen dispute

Leaders of Leyland Cars "rebel" motorists have invited all the group's 14,000 craftsmen to join the strike they have called for October 28 in support of their demands for separate negotiating rights.

W. H. Smith is third big retailer in CBI

W. H. Smith is to be the third major retail group to join the Confederation of British Industry, Marks & Spencer and Dixons Photographic are the others.

The W. H. Smith decision was made after a meeting yesterday between Mr Peter Bennett, chairman of the CBI, and Mr John Medley, CBI director general.

Mr Medley emphasized that the move would not mean any diminution of the support for the Retail Consortium.

There have been suggestions that the consortium might be

management, full-time union officials and shop stewards arranged for next Monday.

Ford men press claim

First round in the pay negotiations covering 57,000 Ford workers in the United Kingdom ended yesterday after union officials had reiterated their claim for rises of at least 15 per cent. Company negotiators did not increase the offer of from 8.5 to 10.5 per cent, but promised to consider the union argument and reply at the next meeting on September 30.

Co-op buries merger

A special committee set up by the Co-operative movement to establish ways of streamlining its organization has been wound up, it was disclosed at yesterday's meeting of the movement's central executive committee. A referendum of retail societies earlier this year failed to produce the necessary majority for a plan for a new single Co-operative federation, taking in the Co-operative Union and the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Turkey devalues

Turkey yesterday devalued the lira against a wide range of foreign currencies, reducing its value by 10.7 per cent against sterling and 10 per cent against the dollar. Some form of devaluation had been expected as Turkey struggles to correct trade and payments deficits that have forced it to suspend payments for most imports.

Mr Lever to study small firms' problems

By Edward Townsend

Mr Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Cabinet's special economic adviser, is to make a study of the problems facing Britain's small businesses and recommend further ways in which they can be assisted by the Government.

Mr Lever's involvement in the issue follows a personal request from the Prime Minister. He is to be assisted by Mr Bob Cryer, the Parliamentary Secretary of State for Industry, who already has special responsibility for small businesses.

A statement from Downing Street yesterday said that Mr Lever would draw together the work that had been going on in various Whitehall departments and examine the effectiveness of the steps the Government had taken over the past two years.

The study was "part of the Government's recognition of the value of small firms to the future of the country".

Announcement of the study follows the disclosure on Tuesday by Sir Hazel Wilson that the inquiry by his committee on the functioning of financial institutions had found its problems of small businesses had appeared more prominently than expected. Such companies were not "remote excrescences", he said, but accounted for about 30 per cent of employment.

The peculiar difficulties of the small business have also led the small firms council of the



Mr Lever: coordinating work of Whitehall departments.

Confederation of British Industry to compile a special report and yesterday the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry said it planned to set up a small business group and expand its services in finance and exports.

One of the main areas of discussion at the group's first meeting on November 15 is to be the availability of finance which, says the chamber, is to form the basis of a regular summary of sources of finance starting in November.

The Downing Street statement added: "The Government believes that small firms have a significant role to play in regenerating the industrial base so vital to the economy. Ministers regard the smaller businesses as an important source of innovation, enterprise and industrial development which make a significant contribution to employment and output, especially in inner cities."

Mr Lever has been asked to begin his study immediately so that the Government can reach early conclusions on further "desirable and practical" measures.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 313.66-0.48

The FT index: 520.0-2.3

Rises

Anglo Am Corp 10p to 29p
Rising Gold 21p to 109p
E. Rand Prop 22p to 24p
ERF 5p to 15p
Fisher J 14p to 14p
Fodens 18p to 68p
Hays Wharf 16p to 15p

Falls

Esey & Hawkes 5p to 15p
Calfins 5p to 5p
Furness Withy 7p to 32p
Gibbs A 4p to 4p
Tilbury Corp 12p to 23p
GKN 4p to 31p
Mollis 4p to 10p

Equities saw little action. Gilt-edged securities were strong, especially at the long end. Dollar premium: 99.75 per cent (effective rate 7.55 per cent). Sterling gained 16 pps to \$1.7433. The effective exchange rate index was at 62.3.

On other pages
Appointments vacant
Business appointments
Wall Street

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.64	1.59
Austria Sch	30.25	28.25
Belgium F	64.75	61.75
Canada \$	1.97	1.96
Denmark Kr	11.06	10.65
Finland Mk	7.50	7.20
France Fr	8.52	8.50
Germany Dm	4.22	4.00
Greece Dr	64.25	61.25
Hongkong \$	8.40	7.95
Italy Lr	1580.00	1525.00
Japan Yn	490.00	465.00
Netherlands G	4.46	4.24
Norway Kr	9.84	9.48
Portugal Esc	76.00	69.00
Spain Pes	149.50	144.25
Sweden Kr	6.73	6.38
Switzerland F	4.28	4.07
US \$	1.78	1.73
Yugoslav Dnr	36.00	33.75

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied previously by Barclays Bank Ltd. Prices are in pence and are only for immediate delivery and other foreign exchange markets.

Rowntree Macintosh 22

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Interim Statements: Eagle Star 20

Russia claims breakthrough in power generating technology

From Roger Violevo
Istanbul, Sept 21

The Soviet Union claimed at the world energy conference here today to have made a major breakthrough in electricity generating technology. Mr Konstantin Lavrenko, a member of the Soviet state board of science and technology said the USSR had a prototype power station running on the magnetic hydro-dynamic principle, and was drawing up designs for a full-scale commercial station that would be operating in the mid-1980s.

MHD replaces the conventional turbine generator equipment at a power station, and works by turning the generating fuel into very high temperature gas, which is passed through a magnetic field to produce electricity. The basic concept of MHD has been known for many years, and in the 1950s and 1960s considerable time and £4m was spent in Britain on an unsuccessful attempt to prove the commercial feasibility of such a system.

Mr Lavrenko claimed that the 300 megawatt prototype built just outside Moscow in co-operation with a number of American companies was achieving efficiencies in fuel conversion of 50 per cent, compared with the 40 per cent efficiency of the best conventional turbine generator stations, and an average of around 30 per cent.

Electricity produced from the plant, which burns natural gas and low sulphur fuel oil, used 25 per cent less fuel, 75 per cent less cooling water, had cleaner exhaust gases and produced electricity that was 15 per cent cheaper than by conventional means.

The 500 MW plant for the mid 1980s would use coal as a generating fuel and would, because of its clean exhaust gases, be part of a combined heat and power system in industrial areas.

Mr Lavrenko, speaking at a press conference, said there was a possibility that in the future the super heated gases from a high temperature nuclear reactor might be fed into an MHD generating system.

American assistance on the prototype was given under a cooperative agreement with the American Research and Development Administration, and involved engineers from Avco, General Electric, Westinghouse, Rockwell International and Reynolds Metals.

Mr Michel Pecqueur, director of the French Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique told the conference that 10 large nuclear fuel reprocessing centres could meet world demand for recycling of spent fuels by the year 2000.

During a discussion on the control of the use of plutonium, he disputed any case for delaying recycling, which he described as the safest way of handling spent nuclear fuel. Technical and safety aspects of reprocessing presented no insurmountable problems, although he admitted that the question of proliferation of nuclear weapons as a result of reprocessing had to be taken very seriously.

Istanbul, Sept 21.—Oil prices after 1985 if alternative sources of energy are not available, according to a report presented by the conference's conservation committee. "Crude oil reserves are running out," said the report. "The years 1985 to 1995 seemed critical. If the demand for petroleum continued at that time and if there was not sufficient availability of coal and nuclear electricity, there would probably be an oil shortage and oil prices are likely to rocket uncontrollably."—UPI.

Mr Denys Randolph, a general, strongly criticized the lack of progress in building a "new international economic order," which had allowed many countries to face a year of increasing despair.

Industrial nations should realize it was possible for the poor to gain without the richer nations being made to suffer.

One way in which it is hoped this could be done is through a faster pace of expansion by the strong countries in the West.

Mr Healey is likely to press for this again in Washington next week with the full support of the developing nations.

The other main topic in the Commonwealth talks is the whole question of the role of the International Monetary Fund and other international credit institutions.

Mr J. M. G. Adams, Barbados Prime Minister, launched a strong attack on the attitude of these international bodies, accusing them of failing to recognize the difficulties of small countries when deciding on the conditions for loans.

This question of conditionalities is likely to come back with extra vehemence next week because the developing countries feel that once a country starts to borrow from the IMF, its first practically unconditional "tranche" is lost.

There is a feeling that the IMF does not take account of the political and social problems countries face when it is determining the conditions for loans.

The British view, which seems not wholly to convince anyone, is that the United Kingdom's experience last year shows that the fund will be reasonable if a country approaches it.

But the developing countries still feel the experience of Britain last year shows that the fund still gives softer treatment to industrial nations of the West.

Today Mr Sirindha Ramphal, the Commonwealth secretary general, strongly criticized the lack of progress in building a "new international economic order," which had allowed many countries to face a year of increasing despair.

Industrial nations should realize it was possible for the poor to gain without the richer nations being made to suffer.

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The British view, which seems not wholly to convince anyone, is that the United Kingdom's experience last year shows that the fund will be reasonable if a country approaches it.

But the developing countries still feel the experience of Britain last year shows that the fund still gives softer treatment to industrial nations of the West.

Mr Healey stresses protectionist dangers to Barbados meeting

From David Blake
Economics Correspondent

Bridgetown, Barbados, Sept 21

A warning of the danger to world prosperity from rising protectionism in the industrial nations came today from Mr Healey.

The Chancellor told the opening session of a meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers here that growing protectionism in the developed world was the "most dangerous threat" to the joint progress of industrialized and developing nations.

Away from the "paralysis" of high inflation and low growth, Mr Healey said, the world must move forward.

Worries by the developing nations that their manufactured products will be kept out of the markets of the west are likely to prove one of the two main topics at the two-day session.

The finance ministers are likely to return to this issue next week in Washington, where it is likely to broaden out to cover the whole range of questions involving the attempts of the poorer nations to get what they consider to be a fairer deal from the industrial countries.

The developing countries are also likely at next week's International Monetary Fund meeting to express opposition to the Carter Administration's policy of giving aid to tests of human rights.

Today Mr Sirindha Ramphal, the Commonwealth secretary general, strongly criticized the lack of progress in building a "new international economic order," which had allowed many countries to face a year of increasing despair.

Industrial nations should realize it was possible for the poor to gain without the richer nations being made to suffer.

One way in which it is hoped this could be done is through a faster pace of expansion by the strong countries in the West.

Mr Healey is likely to press for this again in Washington next week with the full support of the developing nations.

The other main topic in the Commonwealth talks is the whole question of the role of the International Monetary Fund and other international credit institutions.

Mr J. M. G. Adams, Barbados Prime Minister, launched a strong attack on the attitude of these international bodies, accusing them of failing to recognize the difficulties of small countries when deciding on the conditions for loans.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Astonishing trend towards false economy in UK export philosophy

From Mr G. A. Bower

Sir, A sound export policy remains a crucial item in the economic armoury. It can induce a healthy increase in employment. Wise use of its surplus can provide scope for cheaper imports, to keep inflation down. And yet Western Europe—with the possible exception of France—has shown a lamentable lack of will and purpose in its recent export strategy: a history of lost opportunities with no change in sight.

Three examples illustrate current British export philosophy: an astonishing trend towards false economy in the export of services, the export of goods, and the export of technology.

(a) The proposed charges for the export promotion services of the Department of Overseas Trade may be "irritant" to the real cost of the upheaval of the export industry, but it is a false economy to increase the cost of collection. The Department's efficiency, however, is bound to be serious, as will be the intended cut-back in assisting participants in overseas trade fairs.

What is needed can only be achieved by more effective involvement in the promotion of worthwhile serious commercial effort.

(b) The dispersal policy recommended in the Hardman Report will seriously affect the Export Credits Guarantee Department, which is being

crossed like an ordinary branch of the Civil Service. Arrangements have already been initiated for a move, from London to Cardiff.

In the course of years the ECED has become the fulcrum of export policy and the commercial community needs the personal contacts, accessibility and immediate response for decision making within the department, which is the heart of the export industry. This work supported by quick interchange of information from Whitehall and the City, is a dynamic necessity for both visible and invisible exports.

The relocation of the department, away from the City, away from the heart of the export industry, will ultimately result in a permanent loss to the export industry, the real cost of the upheaval of the export industry, but it is a false economy to increase the cost of collection. The Department's efficiency, however, is bound to be serious, as will be the intended cut-back in assisting participants in overseas trade fairs.

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EEC nations urged to develop electronics

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Correspondent

The European Commission in Brussels intends to propose a Community-supported programme for the development of advanced microelectronic circuits in Europe. The programme is due by the end of this year.

This was disclosed in London yesterday by Mr Christopher Layton, of the Commission's Directorate of Industrial and Technological Affairs. He was addressing a computing conference organized by the Diebold organization.

The United States held a world lead in large-scale integration (LSI) circuits, he said, and Japan had already mounted a substantial programme to leapfrog the Americans into the next stage, that of very large-scale integration (VLSI).

Because of the key role of microelectronics in many industries and products, "we believe in the Community, there is a need for a VLSI programme,

quite expensive, with significant support from public funds".

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Gold shares and long gilts glister

Long gilts held most of the spotlight as equities languished close to their overnight levels lacking the impetus to make a pronounced move either way.

Fixed-interest dealers reported a small but persistent demand for the longer maturities which brought gains of three-quarters and occasionally a full point.

"Shorts" were subdued at first by the imminence of the £800m "cap". But they quickly rallied in the wake of their longer brethren and by the end had all but wiped out losses which had stretched to half a point.

Though general trade in equities was at a minimum a good sprinkling of actual and potential takeover stocks, a long list of company statements and a strong market in gold shares provided enough diversion for most dealers.

Having stayed just above its overnight level for most of the session the FT index reversed to unchanged at 3 pm and finally lost ground to close 2.3 lower at 520.0.

Down went Stano-Platt Industries by 5p to 110p after their 25p drop to 118p when the figures for the first half year came out just under a week ago. Twenty institutions and brokers have just been entertained at Quagline's to the way the chairman and his chief executive see prospects; there is, it seems, unlikely to be a recovery in textile machinery orders for at least a year and the important United States market is extremely sluggish. But the group is doing what it can to curb costs.

As the gold price went through £150 there were selectively good rises on the pitch with some of the strongest performances coming from Vasil Reefs at £13.25 and General Mining £15.25, both up half a point, and Western Holdings £16.0 and Randfontein £25.0 both of which were almost £1 to the good.

A cluster of takeover and speculative issues featured Houchin 197p and Kwikform 150p both returning after suspension to close 6p and 30p better respectively.

Speculative attention brought huge gains to ERF and Fodens, the two Chesire-based lorry groups run by different branches of the Foden family.

Amid rumours of a possible takeover of both groups or that merger talks were on, ERF leapt 43p to 155p while Fodens jumped 18p to 68.

Last night, however, Mr W. L. Foden, chairman of the Fodens group, which recently fought off a takeover bid from Rolls-Royce Motors, said that he was mystified by the rise. He denied that the group had been involved in any talks.

Redfern returned from suspension to close 20p up at 300p after news of the rejected counter offer from Rockware.

Electrocomponents was another wanted and ended 12p ahead at 280p.

Issues to react from recent speculative strength were

Furness Withy, which lost 7p to 337p, Adwest 4p to 288p and Oil Exploration which shed 3p to 290p. Renewed strength was to be found in Turner Manufacturing 9p to 117p and Swan Hunter which ended 6p ahead at 139p.

The market is waiting somewhat anxiously to see how Vickers presents its half-year figures. The group will have had control of its nationalized aircraft interests for four months and its shipbuilding companies for the full period, but without agreed compensation comparative results may be difficult to produce.

Recent market doubts about customer resistance to confectionery products were more than dispelled by profits from Rowntree well above most market expectations. The shares jumped 21p to 394p with many dealers drawing comfort from the disappointment of recent engineering results had not been repeated.

The much anticipated figures from Arthur Bell, which were coupled with a 100 per cent

scrip, did not disappoint and the shares rose 8p to 334p. But both Laporte off 4p to 113p and RTZ down 20p to 216p were overshadowed by warnings on future profits.

There has been strong speculative support of late for vehicle suspension specialist Jonas Woodhead. In a flurry of buying yesterday the shares rose 12p to 200p. Prudential and Norwich Union together hold around 15 per cent and dealers would not be surprised if these shares went to a motor industry company.

Equity turnover on September 20 was £97.48m (18,355 bargains). Active stocks yesterday according to Exchange Telegraph were Royal Insurance, RTZ, ICL European Ferries, BAT Dfd, Dunlop, GKN, Rowntree Mackintosh, Reed International, Shell, Dawson International, Grand Metropolitan, BP, Swan Hunter, Redfern Glas and Furness Withy.

Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Int or Fin						
Armstrong Bros (I)	—	0.20 (0.23)	—	—	—	(14.63)
Arthur Bell	43.6 (40.4)	3.7 (2.2)	24.86 (15.09)	4.4 (2.97)	—	(6.0)
Benzon Corp (I)	19.7 (15.0)	1.15 (1.12)	—	1.51 (1.34)	18/11	(2.6)
Bremar Hides	—	1.2 (1.1)	—	—	—	(—)
Britton Est (I)	—	1.1 (0.96)	—	1.2 (1.1)	—	(1.6)
C. Clifford Ind	5.6 (4.1)	0.08 (0.16)	—	—	—	(—)
Hambleton (I)	1.10 (1.12)	0.08 (0.06)	—	—	—	(—)
Eagle Star Ins	—	19.5 (15.8)	—	—	13/1	(8.4)
Anthony Gibbs (I)	—	—	—	0.715 (0.715)	18/11	(—)
Home Cnt Nws (I)	2.8 (2.4)	0.28 (0.08)	5.36 (1.52)	1.25 (0.75)	28/10	(3.5)
Humbleton (I)	2.4 (2.3)	0.45 (0.59)	8.5 (5.9)	1.71 (1.05)	3/11	(2.1)
Home Cnt Nws (I)	8.9 (10.6)	0.52 (0.89)	4.46 (4.29)	0.9 (0.48)	6/11	(0.92)
Laporte Ind (I)	74.8 (60.2)	7.0 (5.2)	8.56 (6.24)	2.7 (2.1)	28/11	(5.3)
Plantain Ridge (I)	—	2.5 (1.2)	3.2 (1.6)	2.17 (0.86)	16/11	(1.9)
Rio Tinto-Zinc (I)	89.4 (78.3)	146.1 (122.0)	16.79 (13.03)	3.5 (3.1)	3/11	(8.0)
Rowntree Mack (I)	138.1 (155.1)	12.0 (8.9)	—	—	5/11	(7.3)
Stuart & Wright (F)	0.24 (0.19)	0.03 (0.03)	36.05 (27.1)	14.77 (14.77)	27/10	21.77 (21.77)
Thames Valley (F)	—	0.29 (0.29)	1.73 (1.73)	2.75 (2.75)	3/11	4.0 (4.0)
Tilbury Cont (I)	3.8 (3.4)	0.89 (1.14)	—	6.0 (6.0)	20/10	(17.9)
Wades Dymott (F)	11.6 (10.6)	0.87 (0.88)	7.04 (7.23)	1.38 (1.17)	—	2.0 (2.0)
West City Fp (I)	2.6 (3.1)	0.22 (0.26)	6.6 (11.5)	—	(NH)	(—)
Winn Ind (I)	9.1 (8.8)	0.52 (0.45)	—	1.18 (1.04)	26/11	(2.5)
Zettens Corp (F)	—	0.59 (0.43)	4.16 (3.11)	1.16 (1.04)	17/11	1.16 (1.04)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Loss. b Resigned.

All these securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.



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Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A.	Banque Louis-Dreyfus	Banque Nationale de Paris	
Banque de Neuchâtel, Schlumberger, Mallet	Banque Populaire Suisse S.A. Luxembourg	Banque de la Société Financière Européenne	
Banque de l'Union Européenne	Baring Brothers & Co., Limited	Bayerische Landesbank Girozentrale	Bayerische Vereinsbank
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Composite insurance better on Eagle Star's 23pc headway

By Richard Allen

The composite insurance sector's results season ended on a firm note yesterday, with Eagle Star reporting a 23 per cent increase in its pre-tax surplus to £19.5m for the six months to June 30.

The total result was no more than the market had expected, but the news that it had been achieved despite a "most stringent" policy on outstanding claims provisions was the one for increased confidence throughout the sector. Eagle Star's own shares jumped 5p to 147p.

Reporting a "firm" jump in underwriting losses to £3.4m, the group points to its decision to provide for claims in the important motor and liability accounts on the most cautious view of inflation prospects.

A significant slowdown in inflation could thus have a powerful beneficial effect on the underwriting result for the full year especially as Eagle



Sir Dennis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star

Star is the most United Kingdom-oriented of the seven composite majors.

However, the group yesterday declined to comment on the likelihood of any write-back at the year-end.

Meanwhile Eagle Star, with a strong bias towards the United Kingdom gilt and equity markets, has seen a 29 per cent jump in investment income to £18.3m.

Although the fall in interest rates should mean a slower rate of income growth for the rest of the year, the consequent rise in fixed interest securities has further increased the substantial solvency margin—56 per cent at the last accounting date—despite a 25 per cent gain in premium income.

Grovebank Securities has chipped in a further £2.8m at the interim stage after £2.4m last time. Its profits are up from £3.1m to £3.5m and associated companies profits add £300,000 against £500,000. Pensions contributions have increased from £2.4m to £3.1m.

Declaring an interim dividend of 4.5p, Eagle Star is predicting the maximum increase in the total payout to provide a prospective yield of 6.3 per cent.

Laporte up but trade is getting tough again

By Ray Maughan

The upturn from the world chemicals recession which lifted Laporte Industries in the second half of 1976 began to lose momentum in the first quarter of the current year. The group is now experiencing softening prices and narrower margins for titanium dioxide and phthalic anhydride, which account for about a fifth of the total product range.

The board, headed by Mr R. M. Ringwood, thinks that profits for the second half year this time will "not be too different from the result for the first half of the year". Pre-tax Laporte climbed £1.75m to £7.03m at the interim stage but the half-on-half comparison with the end of next year is decidedly not so encouraging in the July-December period.

Sterling's strength, too, is beginning to dampen export growth. The group estimates that the net adverse effect of the pound's recovery in the first half was about £1m pre-tax.

But the peroxide business, the 50 per cent owned Interox, performed well during the half and looks set for further growth. Laporte attributes the continued strength to its ability to find new product applications.

Thus the current £20m capital investment project lasting until the end of next year is broadly designed to speed Laporte's advance into higher quality specialist markets. This forms the basis for the investment in the titanium dioxide chloride plant at Stallingborough and further spending in molecular sieves.

The £8.2m rights issue in June last enabled the board to promise a total gross dividend this year of 10.25p per share and the interim is in line with this aim at 4.3p per share. Concerned by the prospect of unpredictable international trading conditions, the shares dropped 4p yesterday to 113p and the interim is 7.9 per cent. With a p/e that is likely to come out at less than 6 this year, the shares reflect the market's awareness of the industry's potential problems.

Kloekner's cash, loss at Preussag

From Peter Norman Bonn

Kloekner-Werke AG, the West German steel group, announced that it will raise its capital by DM100m to DM477m by issuing new shares at a price of 105 per cent.

In view of the continuing slump in the West German steel industry and the fact that Kloekner paid no dividend for the past two business years, the board has decided against a normal rights issue.

Instead the group's banks and the single biggest shareholder, Internationale Industrielle Beleggen Maatschappij Amsterdam B.V., which holds between 25 per cent and 50 per cent of the group will each take up half of the new shares.

The banks will hold the shares for a later offer to the free shareholders of Kloekner-Werke. They are paying up a quarter of their share of the capital increase plus the five per cent premium.

The capital increase will help finance recent acquisitions by the Kloekner-Werke Group, in particular the majority holding in the South German Maschinenbau steel making combine.

Preussag AG, the West German metals, chemical and transport concern, said it made a loss in the second quarter of this year mainly because of a fall in the price and demand for zinc.

Antony Gibbs in £11.25m sale of key property

By Ronald Pullen

Antony Gibbs, the merchant bank two-fifths owned by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking, is to sell its major property asset at 22 Bishopsgate in the City, as foretold in *The Times* two weeks ago.

The sale to an undisclosed purchaser for £11.25m has been made necessary because the building is now too small to accommodate the recent growth of staff, and too big for just the banking division.

In the book at a March, 1972 valuation of £2.33m, around £7m has been spent on redeveloping the property. The profit from the deal will be transferred to inner reserves.

Meanwhile, after two years of strong profits recovery from the losses on the personal financial planning side, Gibbs is now forecasting a setback in full-year trading profits at the interim stage.

First half profits from banking, insurance and commodities have shown a "marked improvement" but the Gibbs Bright timber side has been held hit by the Australian recession.

The interim dividend is a maintained 1.08p a share gross but the shares lost 4p to 6p where the capitalization is £8.8m.

Briefly

Kitcat places Gill & Duffus

Around 51 per cent of commodity trader and merchant, Gill & Duffus, was placed in the market yesterday by broker Kitcat & Aitken among more than 40 institutions at more than the 214p opening market price.

The holding came from Markam Holdings, a Dutch cocoa trader which G & D bought some years ago. The widow of Markam's original chairman had been wanting to sell for some time.

HOME COUNTRIES NEWS

Recovery continues at Home Counties Newspapers with pre-tax profits for six months to June 30 of £25,000 against £33,000. Advertising revenue has improved.

LONDON AUSTRALIA INV

Group has lost appeal to Australian High Court to discontinue of years 1967-1969. It had provided for this eventually.

M. W. MARSHALL

Board discussing purchase of Laser Bros, a money broking subsidiary of J. P. Cabot Equity of New York.

BENROSE CORP.

Nearly doubled interest rates held interim profits at last year's level. Order books in many operations for the second half have started well. Figures, see table.

Both bottles and whisky help Bell's to £3.8m

By Bryan Appleyard

Arthur Bell and Sons, the Scotch whisky group, made a £3.8m pre-tax profit in the six months to June 30 against £2.3m last year. Turnover went up from £40.5m to £43.7m.

The bulk of the improvement flowed from the turnaround from a £339,000 loss to a £667,000 profit at Canning Town Glass, the glass container subsidiary, on sales up from £4m to £7m.

Bell's chairman Mr Raymond Miguel said the benefit in this division had come from the restructuring of management and centralizing of operations. A total of £2m has been spent on premises and plant and another £3.5m is to be spent over the next two years.

From now Bell's financial year starts on July 1 and in these twelve months further rebuilds in the glass container division mean profits will be similar to last year.

Profits from whisky rose

from £2.6m to £3.1m with home sales turnover down from £31.5m to £30m due to overstocking ahead of duty increases and export sales turnover up by £1.3m to £5.7m.

Bell's home market volume was down by 6 per cent with its main brand and 9 per cent with The Real Mackenzie against an industry fall of 24 per cent. Export volume were up 7 per cent compared with an industry increase of 3 per cent.

Mr Miguel said that the group's Highland malt distilleries were working at full capacity. Financially the chairman said at June 30 bank loans and overdrafts totalled £10.4m, down £5.6m since December 31, and the board is proposing a scrip issue of one new ordinary share for each share held to improve marketability and bring the share capital more into line with capital employed.

The proposed dividend is 6.6323p against an interim of 4.5p and a final of 4.77p for the last calendar year.



Rowntree Mackintosh

Interim Report for the 24 weeks to 18th June, 1977

	Interim Results 1977 £'000	1976 £'000	Full Year 1976 £'000
Turnover	188,100	155,100	384,921
Trading Profit	14,237	11,428	36,784
Interest paid less Investment Income	2,233	2,430	5,887
Profit before Taxation	12,004	8,998	30,897
Taxation	6,250	4,660	14,375
Profit after Taxation	5,754	4,338	16,522
Minority Interests	750	530	1,655
Profit attributable to Rowntree Mackintosh Ltd. before Extraordinary Items	5,004	3,808	14,867

Notes:

- The unaudited interim figures above should be read in conjunction with the Chairman's Statement below.
- Sales and profits of overseas subsidiary companies have been converted into sterling at the respective half year and year end exchange rates.
- Taxation has been provided at 52% on UK profits; overseas tax amounts to £1.52m (1976 £1.27m).
- Extraordinary items arising in the year end accounts will consist principally of currency revaluation of overseas net assets and release of provisions on investments. At 18th June, 1977 these items would have amounted to a total credit of £1.0m.

Chairman's Statement

Dividend

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 2.75p per share (1976 2.50p per share). This dividend will absorb £1,188,000 and will be payable on 5th January 1978 to Ordinary Shareholders registered at the close of business on 7th December 1977.

Trading results

Group sales in the first half of 1977 at £188.1m were some 21% higher than the first half of 1976. All Divisions in the Group contributed to this growth; 47% of sales turnover was outside the UK.

The volume of the Group's sales also showed an increase over 1976 and brand and market share performance has been very satisfactory. Exports from the UK, which were an important source of growth in 1976, have continued to make excellent progress.

Trading profits increased in line with turnover and interest charges were marginally lower, resulting in a profit before tax of £12,004m, an increase of 33% on the previous year's figure.

Outlook



Property



Stepping Stones - Non-Secretarial - Secretarial & General - Temping Times

LANGFORD COURT

VIEWING
Thurs. 5.7 p.m.
Fri. 12.2 p.m.

LANGFORD PLACE, ST. JOHN'S WOOD, N.W.8

- This fine purpose built block is situated in the heart of St. John's Wood, close to the best shopping and transport facilities. Modernisation having been completed we are now offering the final phase of 3 studio and 4 one bed, one reception, 2 & 3 bed flats.
- Amenities include: CONCRETE HOT WATER, PART CENTRAL HEATING, PASSENGER LIFTS, PORTERAGE.
- Prices are: STUDIO, KITCHEN AND BATHROOM ONE BED., ONE REC., KIT. & BATH. £10,950-£11,500
- MORTGAGES AVAILABLE
- LOW OUTGOINGS
- 99-YEAR LEASES

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Motoring

Manufacturers work on ways of saving fuel

The possibility that the Government may follow the American example and introduce legislation compelling manufacturers and importers to meet specific fuel consumption targets is an intriguing one and raises some important points.

The proposal from the Department of Energy's advisory council on energy conservation is that by 1985 manufacturers must either show that their cars are 25 per cent more economical than current models or that they are capable of 35 miles to the gallon. The idea is being considered as part of a general review of conservation policy.

In the United States, where cars are generally much heavier than they are in Europe, the Administration reacted swiftly to the oil crisis. In 1974 President Ford called for a 40 per cent improvement in miles per gallon by the end of the decade and since then other targets have been set which require dramatic reductions between now and the mid-1980s.

Car manufacturers are meeting the challenge in two ways. The first is to introduce smaller cars than they have ever offered in their ranges before, models which are small even by European standards. General Motors has an American version of the Vauxhall Chevette, Ford is introducing the Fiesta and Chrysler will be launching a small car in the United States similar in design to the Simca 1100 replacement.

The other option is to reduce the size, weight and engine capacity of existing cars. There are good examples of this in the 1978 model year announcements from General Motors. The Chevrolet Malibu range is up to 1,000lb lighter and overall length has been cut by from 12 to 22 in. At the same time, the big five-litre V8 engines have been replaced by a new series of six-cylinder units of 3.3 to 3.8 litre capacity.

The cars are not only in economy. The Buick Regal and Century models have had 18in clipped off their length and 7in from their width and yet claim to offer more passenger and luggage space inside. At last it seems, American car makers are being forced to aim at the sort of efficient packaging that is commonplace this side of the Atlantic.

But coming back home, it may be said that since our cars are already much smaller there is less room for improvement. Also, they are pretty economical. A report by the Central Policy Review Staff, the Government's "think tank"—estimated that the "average" car on British roads, returned 27 miles to the gallon. Another interesting statistic is that 90 per cent of cars sold in Britain are below 2,000 cc.

Clearly there is not the same scope for chopping a foot and a half off the length of a car or switching to much smaller engines. But improvements are being made—hardly a new car is launched these days that does not claim to be more economical than its predecessor—and more are on the way.

Commercial security inhibits manufacturers talking in detail about what they are doing, but Mr Spencer King, Leyland's head of engineering, is confident that his cars will be much more economical before the next 10 years are up, mainly through greater efficiency in engines and transmissions. One idea he is keen on is a gearless automatic transmission, not necessarily on the lines pioneered by Dai.

The motor industry as a whole reckons that work in the pipeline

Power at a price—the Aston Martin V8

should improve the consumption of British cars by 15 per cent by 1985, though it points out that the full benefit is unlikely to be realized because of opposing forces such as greater traffic congestion and tougher emission laws. In any case, 15 per cent is well short of the target urged by the energy advisory council.

Ultimately it will be for the Government to decide how much of the nation's oil should be allocated to the motor car. The Department of Energy has already initiated independent fuel consumption tests, the results of which will be shown on all new cars sold after April 1 next year. By then we should know whether this essentially propaganda exercise will be backed by other measures.

Road test: Aston Martin V8

To most people the striking fact about this Aston is that it costs £16,599, though to judge the car purely in value for money terms could be absurd. Above a certain level, as Rolls-Royce has demonstrated with the Camargue, the price matters little; the main thing, if you are trying to catch the rich buyer, is a glamorous and distinctive product.

Like other specialist manufacturers, Aston Martin must base its appeal on attractive styling, outstanding performance and, just as important, a small enough output to create a scarcity value. It is the last consideration that enables the V8 to sell beside the Jaguar XJS, which costs £3,000 less. In comparison with Aston's six cars a week, the Jaguar is a mass-produced vehicle with that much more chance of turning up in a neighbour's drive.

As to the visual impact of the V8, I can only report that it attracted more than its share of admiring looks and, if I had hoped the car off and charged to look round it, I could almost have neglected enough money to buy one. The V8 is clearly seen to be a special car and that, for Aston, must be at least half the battle.

Furthermore, the 5.3 litre all-alloy engine—Aston's own and hand-built like the rest of the vehicle—does produce some startling performance figures, with 0 to 60 mph coming up in about six seconds and a top speed of 150 mph. (The figures for the XJS are not dissimilar, but let us not argue.) The Aston is, simply, one of the fastest cars currently made and for another £3,500 there is an even quicker version, the Vantage, which reaches a reputed 170 mph.

Not wishing to risk endorsements, I stuck to the permitted 70 mph and felt that I was hardly beginning to exploit the car's potential. I fear that in West Germany, which has not yet got round to a motorway maximum, or when the police are not looking.

Although it is not advisable to attempt grand prix starts in the west, for fear of spinning the rear wheels, the handling is generally well up to the mark. There is a lot in hand on corners, and little body roll, and the fat tyres give excellent grip. The power steering is admirably light and precise, if lacking in feel, but the brakes needed quite a strong right foot.

Where the Aston cannot match the XJS is on noise. The piano, eerie silence of the Jaguar V12, the Aston engine sounds

rough and noisy, though this is less apparent the faster you go. There is also a good deal of tyre thump. And the firm-to-harsh ride, especially at low speeds, is more reminiscent of a popular sports car than a luxury coupe. So from almost every point of view it is best to get the Aston out on to the open road and put the foot down. In town it is almost a liability. For one thing it is unusually wide (6ft 1in) and drove in constant fear of brushing other vehicles. Nor do the hump on the bonnet—a consequence of the switch from fuel injection to carburetors—and the narrow rear window help visibility. The turning circle is poor as well and, of course, fuel consumption goes up in traffic. Its range was 11 to 17 miles per gallon.

Like other two-door coupes, the Aston is not very roomy in the back where restricted head and legroom disqualify it as a full four-seater. The switchgear could be tidier and the instruments produce too much reflection. But prospective buyers will probably be more interested in the impressive trim and equipment—the leather seats, the stereo system, electric windows (which can be operated independently of the ignition) and very effective air conditioning.

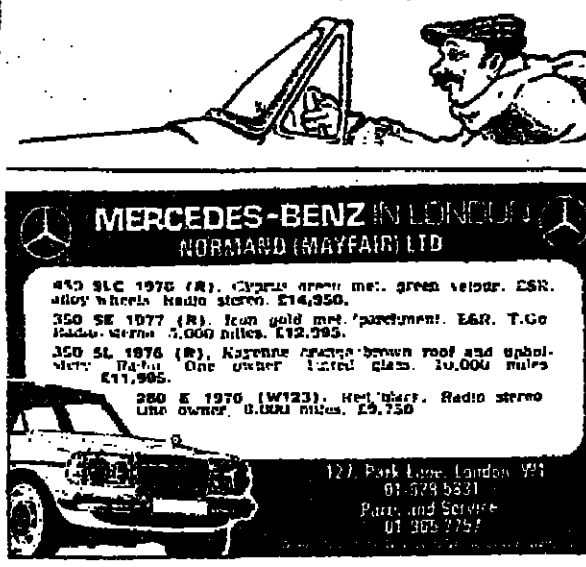
Like other specialist manufacturers, Aston is not very roomy in the back where restricted head and legroom disqualify it as a full four-seater.

The other news from Fiat is that it has been the first car company to run a warranty scheme on used cars. Under the plan, called Autocover, Fiat dealers will offer guarantees on selected second-hand models and be able to recover the cost of warranty claims from the manufacturer.

There are two types of cover, one available on Fiat cars less than three years old and with less than 48,000 miles on the clock, the other on vehicles of any make up to five years old and also with less than 48,000 miles. Fiat hopes that by encouraging the turnover of used cars, the scheme will help to sell new ones as well.

Dealers will pay between £12.50 and £23.50 on a car to Fiat and this is likely to be reflected in the selling price. So the customer ultimately pays, though Fiat claims that the cost is much lower than a normal commercial warranty.

Peter Waymark



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